This seminar explores the development of modern Quebec society. The emphasis this term will be on the social, cultural, and political evolution of the province since the late nineteenth century. Our weekly discussions will focus on key themes such as the rise of Quebec nationalism in the early twentieth century, the province’s reaction to modernity, the changing role/function of the Church/religion, gender, the development of the modern bureaucratic state, as well as the Quiet Revolution and its aftermath. We will also devote considerable time discussing the major historiographical debates that have shaped both the writing of history as well as the modern Quebec mind.

Readings:
- Yvan Lamonde, *The Social History of Ideas in Quebec, 1760-1896*
- Ronald Rudin, *Making History in Twentieth-Century Quebec*
- Michael Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec’s Quiet Revolution*
- Michael Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec’s Quiet Revolution*
- Sean Mills, *The Empire Within*
- Graham Fraser, *René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power*
- Jocelyn Maclure, *Quebec Identity*

- Other readings to be made available online or on reserve at the Weldon Library

Course Requirements:
- Seminar: 10%
- Book/Article Review: 15%
- Research Essay: 50%
- Participation: 25%

Each student will lead one seminar, which involves a presentation of a particular week’s reading as well as taking the lead in directing the ensuing discussion. The week following their seminar, students are to submit a short review (5-7 pages) of that week’s book or selection of articles.

Students will also prepare a major research essay (25 pages). Students are to select, in consultation with the instructor, a topic that deals with some aspect of Quebec history since the late nineteenth century. The essay is to have an argument and be based on primary and secondary sources. Students are also expected to position their research and argument within the historiographical traditions of their chosen field. This
paper is to follow the usual scholarly conventions and include footnotes as well as a bibliography. Towards the end of the semester students will present their papers to the seminar. These presentations are intended to serve two purposes. First, they permit you to share your research and argument with members of the seminar in a manner that will contribute to their understanding of a particular aspect of Quebec’s past. Second, they will provide you with an opportunity to receive feedback that you might then incorporate into the final draft of the paper before you submit it. The final essay is due April 11.

And students are expected to participate fully in the seminar. Attendance at each week’s meeting is expected. Students are responsible for all of the readings in the course and are expected to come to the seminar every week prepared to discuss them.

Seminar Schedule

Jan. 11: Introduction

Jan. 18: Overview
  • Lamonde, The Social History of Ideas in Quebec, 1760-1896

Jan. 25: The Writing of Quebec History
  • Rudin, Making History in Twentieth Century Quebec

Feb. 1: Neo-Nationalism and Liberalism
  • Behiels, Prelude to Quebec’s Quiet Revolution

Feb. 8: The Quiet Revolution

Feb. 15: Modern Catholicism
  • Gauvreau, The Catholic Origins of Quebec’s Quiet Revolution

Feb. 20-24 Reading Week

Feb. 29: The Decolonization of Quebec
  • Mills, The Empire Within
Mar. 7: Gender and Nationalism
  • Mary Jean Green, “Jacques Godbout and the Quebec Writer: Engendering the National Text,” Québec Studies 30 (Fall/Winter 2000): 7-16.

Mar. 14: René Lévesque and Sovereignty-Association
  • Graham Fraser, René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power

Mar. 21: Quebec Today
  • Jocelyn Maclure, Quebec Identity

Mar. 28: Paper Presentations

Apr. 4: Paper Presentations

Apr. 11: Final Essays Due