This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Prof. Jonathan F. Vance (jvance@uwo.ca)
Lawson Hall 2247
661-2111 ext. 84974

Michaelmas Term
Thursday 9:30 - 12:30AM
Lawson Hall 2270C

This research course is an introduction to the phenomenon of social memory in various modern societies. It will address such matters as the commemoration of historical events and the meanings conferred on them, conflicts over different versions of history, the construction of collective identities around historical events, and the influence of historical events on modern nationalisms. In each case, there will be an attempt to understand the continuing impact of the past on the present. The seminar readings will be divided into themes, with each week’s readings examining a different case study of the theme.

Texts:
Students are not required to purchase texts for this course. All readings are available on the course website.

Assignments:

Essay proposal (due 21 October) 20%
Major research essay (due date varies) 60%
Participation / Presentation 20%

Major Research Essay: Students will write a major research paper (based on significant work in primary materials) on a topic of their choice, to be arrived at in consultation with the instructor. In selecting an essay topic, you should be as imaginative and innovative as possible while bearing in mind the availability of relevant primary sources and the soundness of the topic in a theoretical sense. The final draft of the paper should be roughly 25 pages in length and must be presented in proper scholarly format.

A research paper proposal, consisting of a number of tentative research questions, a discussion of the main primary sources to be used, and a list of representative secondary sources, must be submitted on 21 October. Your proposal must also indicate the date on which you intend to submit your paper (16 December 2021 at the latest). Given that you have selected your own due date, it is assumed that you will be able to meet that deadline. For that reason, extensions will not be given without academic accommodation from the appropriate office.
**Participation / Presentation:** The success of the seminar depends on the willingness of students to keep up with the readings on a weekly basis and to take part fully in the discussion. Your participation will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the term. In addition, each student will make a short presentation on an aspect of the week’s reading (of no more than 10 minutes – time limits will be enforced). The precise topic will be given to you the week before your presentation. You should sign up on the sheet on my office door for the week of your choice.

**Seminar Schedule**

9 September - Introduction

16 September - How Societies Remember

**MEMORY AND THE MARKETPLACE**

23 September - The Titanic
Steven Biel, *Down With the Old Canoe: A Cultural History of the Titanic Disaster* (1996): part II

30 September - Heritage Tourism
Liam Coakley, ‘“Sea, Sail, Steam and Emigration”: The Imagining of a Heritage Tourist Town in the Republic of Ireland,’ Geography 92/1 (2007)
7 October - Touring the Third Reich
John Lennon and Malcolm Foley, *Dark Tourism: The Attraction of Death and Disaster* (2000): ch. 3 & 4

CONSTRUCTING IDENTITY
14 October - Gunfighter Nation
Dydia deLyser, “‘Thus I salute the Kentucky Daisey’s claim”: Gender, Social Memory and the Mythic West at a Proposed Oklahoma Monument,’ *Cultural Geographies* 15 (2008): 63-94

21 October – Scottishness ** essay outline due **
Amy Clarke, ‘Should old acquaintance be forgot?: The Uses of History in Scottish Nationalist Politics,’ *Australian Journal of Politics and History* 66/3 (2020): 396-414

28 October – Canada’s National TV Narrative
Darren Bryant and Penney Clark, ‘Historical Empathy and Canada: A People’s History,’
Lyle Dick, ‘Saving the Nation through National History: The Case of Canada: A People’s History,’ in Nicole Neatby and Peter Hodgins, eds., Settling and Unsettling Memories: Essays in Canadian Public History (2012): 188-214

Joe Friesen, ‘Canada: A People’s History as “Journalist’s” History,’ History Workshop Journal 56 (2003): 185-203


4 November – Reading week – no seminar

WAR AND MEMORY

11 November - The World Wars


18 November - Pearl Harbor and 9/11

Ross Poole, ‘Performing Trauma: Commemorating 9/11 in Downtown Manhattan,’ Memory Studies 13/4 (2020): 452-69

Emily S. Rosenberg, A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory (2003): part II


25 November - Vietnam


Fred Turner, Echoes of Combat: Trauma, Memory, and the Vietnam War (2001): ch. 8

‘Vietnam Veterans Memorial,’ *National Geographic* 167/5 (May 1985): 552-73

2 December - Bad War / Good Warrior?
Daniel Clayton, ‘They were soldiers, just like us,’ *War, Literature and the Arts* 25 (2013): 1-27