The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 9210A
Canada: State and Society Since 1945
Fall 2023

Instructor: Prof. Keith Fleming
Office: Lawson Hall 1208
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., or by appointment
Email: kfleming@uwo.ca

Course Description:
A comprehensive examination of key themes defining how the multifaceted relationship between the Canadian state and society has been reconfigured in the post-1945 era. Topics include territorial expansion and modernity; the post-war welfare state; families, gender, and sex; environmental awakenings; communications and cultural revolutions; immigration, multiculturalism, and identities; politics and federalism; Indigenous challenges to an assimilationist state; Canadian internationalism; and economic evolutions.

Methods of Evaluation:
Seminar Participation: 30%
Research Essay: (15-20 pages) due X December 2023 40%
Three book reviews (5-6 pages each): 10% each 30%

Students must pass all elements of the course (research essay; seminar participation; each of the three book reviews) to achieve a passing grade in the course.

Seminar Participation
Students are expected to attend and participate actively in all seminar discussions, thereby demonstrating their comprehension of the Required Readings. All students will be assigned a participation grade on a 10-point scale following each seminar. Failure to attend a seminar will result in a score of “0” for that class. Attending a seminar without participating in the discussion will result in a score of “2” for that class. The assignment of a participation grade from “3” to “10” will be determined by the quality of the student’s contributions to discussion during any given seminar.

All students are required to circulate via the class e-mail list two discussion questions that are especially pertinent to the theme of that week’s topic. These discussion questions are to be circulated no later than 8:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

In addition, one student per class session is responsible for opening the session with a short (10-15 minute) presentation that addresses key themes from the required readings, concluding with five questions on which to begin the seminar discussion. The presenter’s questions must be submitted to the course instructor no later than 8:00 p.m. the day before their session takes place.
In instances when absence from class is unavoidable, students are expected, when possible, to inform the instructor in advance of their pending absence.

Non-illness absences from seminars are unacceptable. Any student attending fewer than ten of the twelve scheduled class sessions (an absence rate of approximately 17%) for non-illness reasons will be assigned a failing grade for seminar participation and a failing grade in the course.

**Book Reviews**
Students will submit three book reviews. The books for review are:


Your reviews of 5 to 6 pages each should outline the central themes of the books, place the books in their general scholarly context, and assess the books’ actual or potential contribution to the field of Canadian history, with particular emphasis on our course theme “State and Society Since 1945.”

Students must submit one paper copy of each book review to the course instructor in person (or to the History Department drop box), and a second copy electronically to kfleming@uwo.ca. The electronic submission date will be deemed the official submission date. A **late penalty** of 5% for the first day and 2% per day thereafter (weekends included) will be assessed against book reviews submitted after the due date.

**Research Essay**
The essay, which is the major written work required for the course, is to be an original piece of scholarship focused on the history of the state and society in Canada since 1945. Obviously, the range of topics that potentially could be included under this broad heading is extensive. The expectation is that individual topics, negotiated with the course instructor, will highlight a key theoretical or conceptual issue. Most papers will focus on secondary literature, but students are also encouraged to include a primary source component in the essay to the extent that time and logistics allow.

Students will submit a **two-page proposal** of their intended essay topic and bibliography by email no later than **Thursday X September 2023**. The preliminary bibliography for the purposes of the proposal should consist of at least 15 secondary works (books, articles, and book reviews in respected academic sources) that are related to the core problem to be explored in the paper.
The proposal will not be graded but is essential for enabling the course instructor to provide feedback on the topic, its approach, and sources. Only essays on topics approved by the course instructor will be accepted and graded. Essay topics cannot subsequently be changed without the course instructor’s prior consent.

The essay is due **X December 2023**. Students must submit one paper copy of the essay to the course instructor in person (or to the History Department drop box), and a second copy electronically to kfleming@uwo.ca. The electronic submission date will be deemed the official submission date. A **late penalty** of 5% for the first day and 2% per day thereafter (weekends included) will be assessed against written work submitted after the due date.

**NOTE:** written assignments containing content generated by ChatGPT or other Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies will not be accepted or graded.

**Session One: X September 2023**
**Topic:** Introduction

**Required Reading:**

**Session Two: X September 2023**
**Topic:** Re-creating Canada: Territorial Expansion and Modernity

**Required Readings:**


**Session Three: X September 2023**
**Topic: The Post-War Welfare State**

**Required Readings:**


**Session Four: X September 2023**
**Topic: Family, Gender, and Sex: Constraints and Liberations**

**Required Readings:**

Joan Sangster, Transforming Labour: Women and Work in Post-war Canada (University of Toronto Press, 2010), pp. 16-52 and 269-279.


ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE SEPTEMBER X

Session Five: X October 2023
Goodman Lecture: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Session Six: X October 2023
Topic: An Environmental Awakening

Required Readings:


Session Seven: X October 2023
Topic: Communications and Cultural Revolutions

Required Readings:
Ryan Edwardson, Canadian Content: Culture and the Quest for Nationhood (University of Toronto Press, 2008), pp. 51-77 and 185-219


David Taras, Digital Mosaic: Media, Power, and Identity in Canada (University of Toronto Press, 2020), pp. 293-301.

Paul Litt, Trudeaumania (UBC Press, 2016), pp. 175-205.


**Session Eight: X November 2023**

**Topic:** Immigration, Multiculturalism, and Identity

**Required Readings:**


**BOOK REVIEW OF Patrice Dutil, ed., The Unexpected Louis St-Laurent: Politics and Policies for a Modern Canada (UBC Press, 2020) DUE NOVEMBER X**

Session Nine: X November 2023
Topic: Politics and Federalism

**Required Readings:**


**Session Ten: X November 2023**
**Topic: Indigenous Challenges to an Assimilationist State**

**Required Readings:**


Session Eleven: X November 2023
Topic: Canadian Internationalism

Required Readings:


BOOK REVIEW OF Lianne C. Leddy, Serpent River Resurgence: Confronting Uranium Mining at Elliott Lake (University of Toronto Press, 2022) DUE DECEMBER X

Session Twelve: X December 2023
Topic: Economic Evolutions
**Required Readings:**


**RESEARCH ESSAY DUE DECEMBER X**