

HISTORY 9804A
Canada and Its Historians
Fall 2026

Instructor: Professor Robert Wardhaugh

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday 9:30-11:00 am
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Course Description:

This course provides an analysis of the field of modern Canadian history (post-1867) by focusing on a variety of topics/fields and examining the most recent and relevant works. The course offers a study of post-Confederation Canadian history and historiography. The aims and outcomes focus on reading, analyzing, discussing, and writing Canadian history at the highest levels. In particular, the course is designed to fit the needs of MA candidates working on a cognate in any field of Canadian history.

Graduate Course Level Learning Outcomes/Objectives:

Students should be able to:

- Read and analyze at least a book a week on Canadian history and be able to discuss it at the highest levels.
- Demonstrate a familiarity and understanding of the narrative of Canadian history
- identify past and contemporary historiographical debates in Canadian history, and the ways that they have challenged conventional historical assumptions.
- explain the ways in which class, gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, and age shaped historical and historiographical trends and how these paradigms intersect.
- indicate the ways in which settler colonialism, transnationalism, and environmentalism is shaping the writing of Canadian history.
- Write a 30-page historiographical essay.

Course Timeline and Format:

The classes are structured as in-person seminars that follow a schedule listing the topics to be discussed and required readings. All students are required to come to every seminar fully prepared by doing the readings. Student *preparation* and *participation* in the seminar process are crucial to the overall success of the course.

Enrollment Restrictions:

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in History, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program. Please contact Kara Brown, the graduate

program coordinator (kbrow@uwo.ca) if you are in a department other than History and would like to enroll in the course.

Course Materials:

There are no textbooks or supplemental texts students are required for this course. On average, students are expected to access 1-2 two books per week/seminar. These books are available in the library system. Students are responsible for accessing (and sharing) the course readings through the library system.

Methods of Evaluation:

All students are required to:

- 1) be present and participate in all of the seminars.
- 2) produce one historiographical essay of 30 pages.

The following formula will be used to determine final grades (whichever results in the higher grade):

Participation-50%	OR	Participation-30%
Papers-50%		Papers- 70%

1) Participation:

Value: 50% (or 30%)

Date: Duration of Class

Length: N/A

Assignment: The weight given to participation demonstrates its importance to the success of a seminar format. Attendance, while being mandatory, does not constitute marks for participation.

2) Historiographical Paper:

Value: 50% (or 70%)

Date: 9 December

Length: Approximately 30 pages total

Assignment: Aside from familiarizing students with Canadian historiography, the assignment can also serve as the historiographical framework for an MA cognate.

Course Schedule and Readings:

1. 15 September: Introduction

2. 22 September: The Traditional Schools of Canadian Historiography

Donald Wright, *The Professionalization of History in English Canada*. Toronto: UTP, 2005.

3. 29 September: Indigenous History

Daniel Rück, *The Laws and the Land: The Settler Colonial Invasion of Kahnawà:ke in Nineteenth-Century Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021.

4. 6 October: Black History

Cheryl Thompson, *Canada and the Blackface Atlantic: Performing Slavery, Conflict, and Freedom, 1812-1897*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2025.

5. 13 October: Reading Week—No Classes

6. 20 October: Environmental History

Alan Maceachern, *The Miramichi Fire: A History*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020.

7. 27 October: Indigenous and Women's History

Cheryl Troupe, *Putting Down Roots: Métis Agency, Land Use, and Women's Food Labour in a Qu'Appelle Valley Road Allowance Community*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2025.

8. 3 November: History of the North

Tina Adcock, *A Cold Colonialism: Modern Exploration and the Canadian North*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2025.

Or:

Katherine Crooks, *At Home in the Cold: Domestic Culture in Arctic Exploration, 1890-1940*. Toronto: UTP, 2025.

9. 10 November: Military History

Tim Cook, *Clio's Warriors: Canadian Historians and the Writing of the World Wars*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2006.

10. 17 November: Eugenics, Medical and Legal History

Erica Dyck, *Facing the History of Eugenics: Reproduction, Sterilization and the Politics of Choice in 20th century Alberta*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

11. 24 November: Age History

Jane Nicholas, *The Modern Girl: Feminine Modernities, the Body, and Commodities in the 1920s*. Toronto: UTP Press, 2015.

Or:

Katharine Rollwagen, *The Scramble for the Teenage Dollar: Creating the Youth Market in Mid-Century Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2025.

12. 1 December: History of Sexuality

Heather Stanley, *Sex and the Married Girl: Heterosexual Marriage and the Body in Postwar Canada*. Toronto: UTP, 2023.

13. 8 December: Leisure and Urban History

Matthew Caron, *Montreal After Dark: Nighttime Regulation and the Pursuit of a Global City*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2025.

Additional Statements

Health/Wellness Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

Accessibility Options:

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Request for Accommodations/Medical Issues:

Students are entitled to their privacy and consequently they do not need to disclose personal information to their course professors. In the event that students feel the need to discuss personal information, they should see the graduate chair. Unlike undergraduate students, graduate students cannot be referred to Social Science Academic Counselling to have their medical or non-medical circumstances evaluated and to receive a recommendation for accommodation. Those facilities are for undergraduates only, and there is no process beyond the department to secure recommendations for accommodation. Our process is that faculty should deal with routine requests for extensions. However, a student's request for accommodation (on medical, non-medical, compassionate grounds) should go to the graduate chair, Prof. Francine McKenzie (historygradchair@uwo.ca) who will consult and communicate with faculty. Additionally, faculty and students should communicate with the grad chair about any case in which work is not submitted before grades are due. In the event that the graduate chair is also the course professor, then a request for accommodation can be taken to the department chair.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is acceptable as an aid but not in producing the final version of written papers.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca

NOTE: See Policies and Statements on the Graduate section of the History Department Website, https://history.uwo.ca/graduate/program_information/graduate_policies_and_statements.html. This includes additional information on academic support services for health and wellness and on other academic policies, including copyright, plagiarism, and accessibility.