



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**HISTORY 3823G**  
**Global Twenty-First Century History**  
**Winter 2018-19**  
**Wednesdays 11:30 am-1:30 pm, location TBA**

**Instructor: Professor William J. Turkel**

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-11:20am or by appointment  
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2267  
Email: wturkel@uwo.ca

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**Course Description:**

A thematic introduction to 21st-century history focused on phenomena that characterize our age: the global connectivity of supply chains, planetary-scale computation, the War on Terror, and unprecedented ecological change. Contemporary events are contextualized in an interdisciplinary fashion at time scales ranging from days to millions of years.

***Prerequisite(s):***

Any 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Course Syllabus:**

The objectives of the course are as follows:

- Recognize and analyze agency problems, transaction costs, network effects, nonlinearity and complexity in the historical development of contemporary events and processes
- Situate aspects of the present moment with respect to historical explanations from a range of specialist literatures
- Become familiar with a variety of digital sources and with computational tools for managing them

### **Course Materials:**

All readings will be available electronically on the OWL site for the course.

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

The grade breakdown for the course is as follows.

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|---|-----|
| • Online research exercise (due Jan 30, zero date Feb 6)                        | 15% |
| • Primary source analysis (due Feb 13, zero date Feb 27)                        | 10% |
| • Research essay (proposal due Feb 27, essay due Mar 27, essay zero date Apr 9) | 30% |
| • In-class activities   | 20% |
| • Final examination (Winter exam period)  | 25% |

Participation in the in-class activities is a key component of this class. I expect you to attend every class and participate in the day's activities. This includes asking and answering questions in class.

In general, I don't like to penalize late work. Each assignment will have a suggested due date and, a week or so later, a zero date. If you hand in your assignment before the zero date, you will receive full credit for your work. After the zero date, it will be worth nothing.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to Academic Counselling as soon as possible.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

This is a draft list of topics to be covered. It will be finalized by the time that the course begins.

- The challenges of doing global twenty-first century history. Networks, nonlinearity and complex adaptive systems. Digital sources and computational tools.
- Terrorism and crime. The agency problem, information and transaction costs.
- Surveillance. Algorithmic construction of identity.
- Privacy, secrecy and anonymity.
- Cyber war.
- Geopolitical implications of global integration of transportation, energy and communications infrastructure. Supply chain security and the history of logistics.
- Global network society, protest and social change.
- Moore's Law.
- Risk, catastrophe, collapse and extinction.
- Neoliberalism, political and economic institutions.
- Global service economy. Affect, personal values and behavioral economics.
- Fossil fuel dependency.
- The Anthropocene. Human impact on a geological time scale.
- Coevolution and domestication. Deep history.

- Contagion and chaos.
- Geopolitics and planetary-scale computational infrastructure.
- Posthumanities.

## **Additional Statements**

### ***Academic Offences:***

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Accessibility Options:***

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Medical Issues***

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf)

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### ***Plagiarism:***

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### ***Scholastic Offences***

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### ***Support Services***

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### ***Use of Electronic Devices***

You are allowed and encouraged to use laptops or other computers in class. Electronic devices will not be permitted for the final examination, however.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail [vangalen@uwo.ca](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca).