



The University of Western Ontario

HISTORY 2124A [001]

Sounds, Sights & Bits:

Explorations in 20th Century Canadian Popular Culture

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30, SSC 3014

Instructor: Prof. Peter V. Krats

Office Hours: TBA

Department of History, Office: Stevenson Hall 2123

Email: pkrats@uwo.ca

Course Description:

Canadian popular culture: poor-quality imitation of American, or crucial element of Canadian identity, worthy of "Canadian Content" regulations and financial support? This course traces the 20th century evolution of "Canadian popular culture," offering glimpses into music, film, television, sport and more. What was enjoyed, why, and was it "Canadian?"

Antirequisite(s):

History 2124 F/G

Course Syllabus:

Canadian popular culture is sometimes derided as "inferior mimicry" and "derivative" of "pop culture" from south of the 49th parallel. Was (is?) that the case? We trace the evolution of "Canadian popular culture," offering glimpses into music, film and television, sport, consumption and more. What was enjoyed, why, and was it "Canadian?" Scrutiny of "voices, images, and more reveal histories little appreciated, with both impressive originality and sycophantic imitation readily found. We will examine *popular* culture in various guises – from radio and television to film to music, sports and more. The character of that cultural product; the role of changing tastes and technologies; the influence of regulation versus free enterprise; national versus international perspectives; and the changing "mass" market all come into play. History 2124 challenges notions about Canadian popular culture, suggesting that "our" culture is more multifaceted than the caricatures provided by either nationalist "cheerleading" or dismissive rejection.

Course Learning Outcomes :

- identify key elements in the history of Canadian popular culture, including forces of continuity versus change; in doing so, better understanding some of forces shaping history overall
- recognize both strengths and weaknesses in historical assessment *and* cultural views of history – learning that "the" past reflects both conventional data and a lend of myth, imagination and more
- show an ability to assess written historical work and cultural products and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both conventional and cultural historical sources
- summarize their ideas by synthesizing issues within reports, essays and examinations
- develop verbal and presentation skills, including both presentation and reaction to class materials
- begin to see the relevance of "pop culture" in understanding earlier and contemporary Canada

Course Materials:

There are no course texts – attendance at class is a crucial element of the Course. There are suggestions about “good” writing practice on OWL under the “Resources” section (alongside course “headers” and copies of the Power point slides.

Methods of Evaluation:

Group Chat on OWL	10
Comments on Lectures [750 words / 3 page paper]	15
Thoughts on a Cultural Element [1000 words / 4 page paper]	25
Final Exam	30

Policy on Accommodation for Illness

See : http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf.

For a missed class or online posting, please speak with me. No formal documents will be required for these minor cases [worth less than 10 percent]. Longer absences or other academic issues related to illness will require that documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean`s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean`s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Course Schedule and Readings:

*** several topics extend beyond one class; subject to change**

1. Introductions / Contexts of Canadian Culture / Culture Contemplated
2. Glimpses of 19th Century Popular Culture
3. Popular Culture Meets Urban-industrial Capitalism
4. Tiddley Winks to “Reaching for a Lucky”: Popular Culture as Control & as Site of Contention
5. Music & Machines → Mesmerizing the Masses
6. Entertaining Canadians: Expanding Media
7. Sporting Spectacles in a Modernizing Canada
8. Contexts of “Modern” Popular Culture: W.W. II to the 1980s
9. Consuming as Progressive Popular Culture
10. *Seeing Things*: Images & Popular Culture in Canada, 1939-1990s
11. “Bits” of Canadian Popular Culture since the 1990s

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

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>).

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

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://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.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.

Please note: Please visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

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).

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 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>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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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www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Support Services

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

Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices may not be used in examinations.

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.