



The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 3823G
Global Twenty-First Century History
Winter 2019-20
Wednesdays 11:30 am-1:30 pm, UC-3220

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

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 prerequisites 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 contemporary sources

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.

- Online research exercise (due Jan 29, zero date Feb 05) 15%
- Primary source analysis (due Feb 12, zero date Feb 26) 10%
- Research essay (proposal due Feb 26, essay due Mar 25, essay zero date Apr 03) 30%
- In-class activities 20%
- Final examination (Winter exam period) 25%

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 Counseling as soon as possible.

N.B. Failure to attend more than two classes without prior approval or a note from your academic counsellor will result in a failing grade.

Attendance and Participation:

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. *Failure to attend more than two classes without prior approval or a note from your academic counsellor will result in a failing grade.* Since you will be working closely with others, it is important to be respectful, to share your own ideas and to listen carefully to the ideas of others.

Each week, beginning January 15th, two or three students will be asked to evaluate the in-class participation of their fellow students. I will provide instructions and evaluation forms in class. Your participation grade for the course will be determined by a combination of these peer evaluations and my assessment of your in-class contributions.

Course Schedule:

- **Jan 08. Introduction.** Defining the 21st Century; Five Global Phenomena; Concepts and Methods. Online research exercise handed out.
- **Jan 15. The Terrorist's Dilemma.** Al Qaeda and 9/11; Agency Problems; Transaction and Information Costs; Global Outlaws; Following the Money. Peer evaluations of participation begin.
- **Jan 22. Everything Becomes War.** War in the Age of Intelligent Machines; Drones; Cyberwar and Active Measures.

- **Jan 29. Black Box Society.** Moore's Law; Identity by Algorithm; Social Sorting and Network Inequality; Spam, Spyware and Trolls; Transparency and Conspiracy.
Online research exercise due.
- **Feb 05. Secrecy, Privacy and Anonymity.** Mass Surveillance; Cryptography; Hacktivism and the Dark Web.
Online research exercise zero date.
- **Feb 12. Consent of the Networked.** Social Production; Contested Expertise; Enclosure of the Commons; Protest and Social Change.
Primary source analysis due.
- **Feb 19. NO CLASS – READING WEEK**
- **Feb 26. Global Supply Chains.** Licit and Illicit Flows; the Deadly Life of Logistics; Connectography; Extrastatecraft.
Research essay proposal due. Primary source analysis zero date.
- **Mar 04. Capitalist Ruins.** Stuff; Attention and Advertising; Neoliberalism; Financial Crisis; Ordinary Affects.
- **Mar 11. Global Governance.** Paperwork; Seeing like a State; Expertise and Struggle.
- **Mar 18. Anthropocene.** Urbanization; Fossil Fuel Dependency; the Dispossessed; Risk, Catastrophe, Collapse and Extinction.
- **Mar 25. Deep History.** Coevolution and Domestication; Companion Species; Contagion and Chaos; Food Security.
Research essay due.
- **Apr 01. After Now.** Technosphere; the Stack; Utopia; Posthumanities; Superintelligences.
- **Apr 03.** Research essay zero date.
- **Winter Exam Period. FINAL EXAM**

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

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).

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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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

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.