

HISTORY 2814F
The History of Aviation
Fall 2020
Online Course

Instructor: Prof. Jeffery Vacante

Office Hours: tba

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Lectures will take place in a virtual, saynchronous format - on-line with no meeting time.

Course Description:

This course explores the history of aviation from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. It focuses on the key events and personalities associated with the history of aviation from the romantic era of flight to the development of the modern aviation industry.

Antirequisite(s):

History 2215F/G

Course Syllabus:

This course explores the idea of flight. When men began to experiment with flight they were seen as visionaries but also as somewhat eccentric. For many of those who supported these experiments balloons and then flying machines represented great scientific and technological achievement as well as the hope that science might bring the world together in peace. But the early promise of flight would be shattered when airplanes were shown to be efficient weapons in war. The early dreams of flight persisted during the middle decades of the twentieth century, which helped to propel the creation of a commercial aviation industry. The decades following the Second World War were a so-called golden age of aviation, a time when flight became more comfortable, safer, and more accessible to a new generation of people with both the means and the desire to travel as a form of leisure. The deregulation of the skies beginning in the seventies, however, would ultimately spell the end of the carriers that had done so much to sell the public on the romance of flight. Flying would become more accessible to the masses but it would also become simply one more prosaic means of transportation. This course focuses on the key events and personalities in the history of aviation, including tOrville and Wilbur Wright, Charles Lindbergh, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. We will also consider how some of the past century's major literary figures, including H.G. Wells, Norman Mailer, Tom Wolfe, have understood flight. As well, we will trace the development of a commercial aviation industry including the rise of such companies as Pan-Am, TWA, Canadian Airways, and Trans Canada Airlines. This course, in the end, is concerned with the idea of flight in the western imagination.

In this course students will, in addition to learning the broad outline of the history of aviation, sharpen their ability to read and think critically, develop their analytical skills, and learn to organize and present their thoughts in two short essays and a take-home final exam.

The course is being delivered online this semester. All information regarding readings, assignments, and submissions will be delivered through the course page on owl. All readings will also be made available online through this site. There are, to be sure, disadvantages to online courses. Online courses, for one thing, deprive us of a shared in-person experience in the lecture hall and remove the possibility of in-person meetings during office hours. But there can be benefits to an online experience. Students will be freed from the requirement of sitting through formal lectures in what can at times be large and impersonal lecture halls with poor acoustics. This should free students up to spend more time on the readings and to engage even more meaningfully with the material. There will be a schedule of weekly readings as well as enhanced power-point slides to capture some of what would have been delivered in the lectures. There will be no scheduled meeting times during the semester. Students may thus approach the readings and slides largely at their own pace. However, it is advisable to keep up with the readings and slides in order to avoid finding oneself with an avalanche of material to cover right before the essays are due or the final exam is to be written. I will, of course, be available to provide additional guidance as well as to respond to any and all questions that might arise during the semester. If you are prepared to read some really interesting material on the history of aviation, are willing to distill some of what you're reading into two short essays, and able to take what you need from the readings to write a take-home final exam, then this course should provide you with a rewarding experience.

Course Materials:

This semester, all course materials will be made available online through the course owl page.

Methods of Evaluation:

First Essay (due Oct.19)	30%
Second Essay (due Nov. 16)	30%
Final Exam (take-home)	40%

This semester, students will prepare **two short essays**. Each essay will be **five pages in length**. The first essay will be **due October 19** and the second will be **due November 16**. At least one week before each essay's due date students will receive the question that is to serve as the basis of their essay. They are to answer that question in essay format. All of the material that students will need to answer the question will be found in the course readings and slides. No outside research will be expected. The essays are to be typed, well-written, provide sound analysis, draw upon the appropriate course material, follow proper scholarly conventions (including citation style) and include a cover page. You will upload a copy of the essay to the course web page on owl, where it will also be subject to Turnitin analysis. Essays submitted after the due dates will be subject to a late penalty of five percent the first day and one percent for every day thereafter (including weekends). Students will also write a **take-home final exam** during the exam period in December.

Accommodation for missed midterms with a Self Reported Absence:

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test on one of the two time slots available in each term:

Fall Term

- Tests scheduled before November 1 – the makeup will take place Monday, November 9 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between November 9 and December 3 – the makeup will take place Friday, December 4 at 12:30pm.

Winter Term

- Tests scheduled before February 13 – the makeup will take place Monday, February 22 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between February 22 and April 1 – the makeup will take place Friday, April 2 at 12:30pm

No other make-up opportunities will be provided. Students who fail to write a makeup test in the designated time slots will receive a grade of zero.

Students in online courses will write the make-up test through OWL over a 24-hour period beginning at the time noted above.

Students should be aware that course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test slots.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

Additional Statements

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 website:
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 Student Accessibility Services 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 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 another writers ideas.

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 receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Scholastic 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 website:

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.

Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 Student Accessibility Services 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.