

# HISTORY 3813E: PUBLIC HISTORY

Fall/Winter 2020-2021  
Virtual Asynchronous  
(Online; no scheduled meeting time)

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**This is a draft syllabus. Please see the course OWL website for the final syllabus.**

This course will be offered in a virtual, asynchronous format.

## Course Description:

An exploration of history as it is understood by and interpreted for the public in varied venues and media, including museums, historic sites, historical fiction, the internet, and film. Topics include the history of public history, ethical practice, the relationships between form and content and between public and academic history.

## Prerequisite(s):

1.0 course in History at the 2200 level or above; or History 2811F/G and enrolment in the Minor in Public History.

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:

[Please note that this is a draft syllabus. The final version, including a list of all readings and assignments, will be available on the OWL-Sakai course website prior to the beginning of classes.]

This course provides an overview of public history- applied history, or the many and diverse ways in which history is put to work in the world. The theory and practice of public history will be examined through a variety of sources, including historical novels, websites, apps, television, film, exhibits, artifacts, graphic novels, computer games, guest speakers, and physical sites.

Students will be acquainted with the wide range of history-related professional opportunities available outside of academia, namely: archives and records management, film and documentary production, museums, parks, historic sites, historic preservation, heritage tourism, editorial services, digital history,

oral history, genealogy, and public policy research and consulting. Students will meet practitioners in the field and experience several public history-related sites within a virtual format.

By the conclusion of this course, students should have:

- a sense of the origin, growth, and theory of public history;
- an understanding of the primary avenues for practicing public history;
- an awareness of the main issues and challenges faced by public historians;
- a familiarity with the variety of tools used by public historians;
- first-hand experience working with material culture objects;
- an ability to examine and critically assess various forms of historical media;
- the capability of delivering short presentations of their work to their peers;
- the experience of working on a public history project;
- made contacts with public history professionals and institutions;
- experienced several local public history-related sites, either in-person or virtually  
**(\*Note: Planned year-end ROM visit!);**
- and a clearer sense of the diversity of career options open to them.

#### **\*Class visit to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto, ON!**

Please take note that we are hoping to conduct a day-long class trip to the ROM on Friday, 26 February 2021. Funding for coach transportation, admission fees and a class workshop on museological practice has been approved. We gratefully acknowledge assistance from the Social Science Student Development Fund. Students will receive additional information and updates regarding this trip as the term progresses, following guidance on COVID-19 measures from government and public health authorities.

#### **Course Materials:**

There is one textbook for the course, freely available to be read online through Western Libraries:

[https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991044447759105163&context=L&vid=01OCUL\\_UWO:UWO\\_DEFAULT&lang=en&search\\_scope=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&query=any,contains,cauvin,%20thomas&offset=0](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991044447759105163&context=L&vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&lang=en&search_scope=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetwork&query=any,contains,cauvin,%20thomas&offset=0)

or available for purchase in hardcopy or as an eBook from several vendors, including the publisher:

<https://www.routledge.com/Public-History-A-Textbook-of-Practice-1st-Edition/Cauvin/p/book/9780765645913>

Additional readings, consisting of book chapters, articles, illustrations and videos, are accessible through the OWL (Sakai) course website, as noted in the final course syllabus.

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

Class Participation (Forum Discussions)	25%
'Me in 3' Exhibit	10%
Virtual Museum of Canada Exhibit Review	15%
Midterm Test (1 week take-home)	20%
Public History Project	30%

Students are expected to complete the weekly readings, participate in weekly discussion forums, and complete the midterm test and all assignments.

Due to the high degree of uncertainty regarding safety and accessibility of in-class instruction due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this course will be offered in a virtual (online) asynchronous (no regular meeting time) format. Weekly recorded voice-over slide presentations will be posted at the beginning of every week. Assigned readings and discussion questions will also appear. Students will be required to submit their thoughts to these questions via the Forum Discussion feature of the course website by the end of the week. **Participation** in discussions is essential to having a quality learning experience. Students are expected to regularly contribute informed and thoughtful opinions on assigned readings via the Forum Discussion. To help students better gauge their performance, a participation update and suggestions for improvement will be given at the mid-point of the year prior to returning to classes in January. Participation is valued at 25% of the final course grade.

**The 'Me in 3' Exhibit** assignment is designed to allow students to be the curator of an exhibit about their own lives. Each student will tell their own story in three minutes using three objects of their choosing. Recorded presentations will be due by 11:59pm EST on Friday, 16 October 2020. Our next week will be dedicated to a discussion of each student's presentation. Students will be expected to view each other's presentations and provide comments. More information about this assignment will be provided through the OWL course website. The 'Me in 3 Exhibit' will be weighted at 10% of the final course grade.

**The Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC)** is the largest digital source of stories and experiences shared by Canada's museums and heritage organizations. Your assignment is to choose one of the wide variety of virtual exhibits with an historical topic and to critically review it with reference to best practices for creating online museum exhibitions learned in the course: <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/virtual-exhibits/type/virtual-exhibits/> It is due by 11:59pm EST on Friday, 13 November 2020. More information about this assignment will be provided through the OWL course website. This assignment will be weighted at 15% of the final course grade.

Students will complete a take-home **Midterm Test** over a week-long period beginning on Monday, 30 November. The completed test will be due by 11:59pm EST on Monday, 07 December 2020. It will not be timed, ie. time will not count down once a student begins it, rather students will have the full time

indicated to complete the test. No class is scheduled for 07 December to allow students ample opportunity to complete it. Students will submit their completed tests through the OWL course website. It will feature two sections: one will ask students to identify and describe the significance of a choice of five of ten public history terms from the course; and the other section will ask students to write on a choice of two of three essay-style questions. Formal citations (footnotes) from the relevant course materials are required. The test will cover all course materials covered to that date. More information regarding the structure of the test will be provided through the OWL course website. It is weighted at 20% of the final course grade.

Each student will complete a **Public History Project** during the winter 2021 term. The topic may be chosen from a list of projects organized by the instructor with local heritage organizations or it can be one of your own creation. Proposed projects may take several forms, for example: the creation of a documentary film, a museum exhibit, an oral history project, an historical walking tour, or a heritage website. Although this project is designed to give students practical experience in the field of public history, students are not meant to bring the proposal to fruition. It should be kept in mind, however, that student proposals could very well be of interest to those in the public history community and may lead to future collaboration. Students are therefore encouraged to consult with individuals and/or institutions whose work is particularly relevant to their project proposals.

All projects include a brief summary of the intended proposal, due by 11:59 EST on 01 February; a 20-minute recorded presentation of the project to the class, to be scheduled on one of the designated class dates in March; and a final written proposal of 10-12 pages, due on Monday, 05 April 2021. More information about this assignment will be provided through the OWL course website. The Public History Project is weighted at 30% of the final course grade (5% - proposal; 10% - presentation; 15% - final write-up).

**Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self-Reported Absence (SRA):**

If a student reports an 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 an SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

**Accommodation for missed assignment and tests without an SRA:**

Requests for make-up exams in this course will only be granted for documented medical reasons or family emergencies. If documentation is required for either illness or non-illness academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student to the academic counselling office of their home faculty. If it is determined that an accommodation is warranted, then the instructor will be notified of it and the student and the instructor will arrange an alternative arrangement. Please refer to the following website for more information about Western's *POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION FOR STUDENT ABSENCES*:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

Barring the above conditions, late assignments and tests will be subjected to a penalty of 2% each day following the posted deadline, including weekends.

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

[Please note that several additional readings will be assigned in this course. They will appear on the final version of the syllabus, which will be posted on the OWL course website prior to the beginning of term.]

This course will be taught through the OWL (powered by Sakai) course website. It contains all course readings except the textbook and is where students will access weekly recorded voice-over slide presentations, participate in forum discussions, submit their midterm take-home test and assignments, receive announcements, and access their grades. I hope this will be an enjoyable experience for you. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are encountering issues or have concerns about your course experience. We will work towards finding a solution. Thank you for enrolling!

### **FALL 2020**

#### SEPTEMBER

- Week 1: Welcome!
- Week 2: Introduction: Defining 'Public History' and 'the public(s)'
- Week 3: Archives, Museums and Historic Sites, Part I

#### OCTOBER

- Week 4: Archives, Museums and Historic Sites, Part II (GUEST SPEAKER TBA)
- Week 5: NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING!** ('Me in 3' presentations due Friday, 16 October!)
- Week 6: 'Me in 3' Exhibit Discussion
- Week 7: Peoples' Stories, Part I: Family & Community History

#### NOVEMBER

#### **NO CLASS THIS WEEK - FALL STUDY BREAK!**

- Week 8: Peoples' Stories, Part II: Oral History & SoHo's Hear, Here Project  
(Virtual Museum of Canada Exhibit Review due: Friday, 13 November!)
- Week 9: Heritage Conservation (GUEST SPEAKER TBA)
- Week 10: Popular History, Part I: Comics, Games, & Novels
- Week 11: Popular History, Part II: The Web, Film & Television (Take-Home Midterm Test posted)

## DECEMBER

Week 12: **NO CLASS** - Take-Home Midterm Test due: 07 December!

## **WINTER 2021**

## JANUARY

Week 1: Careers in Public History: Preparing Letters, Resumes and Applications  
Public History Project Discussion

Week 2: Digital Public History

Week 3: Archival Collections & Management (GUEST SPEAKER TBA)

Week 4: Historical Research Consulting

(GUEST SPEAKER SEAN STOYLES, SENIOR RESEARCHER, CDCI RESEARCH, OTTAWA)

## FEBRUARY

Week 5: The Business of History, Part I: Corporate Uses of the Past  
(Public History Project Proposal due)

Week 6: The Business of History, Part II: Heritage Tourism

**NO CLASS: WINTER STUDY BREAK!**

Week 7: Social Justice & Public History (GUEST SPEAKER TBA)

(ROM Trip – Friday, 26 February!)

## MARCH

Week 8: **No Class** (in lieu of ROM Trip) - Public History Project Presentation Preparation

Week 9: Public History Project Presentations

Week 10: Public History Project Presentations

Week 11: Public History Project Presentations

Week 12: Public History Project Presentations

## APRIL

Week 13: **No Class** - Public History Final Proposals due: 05 April!

## **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](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](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://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](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](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](http://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/uwo.com/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](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca).