

**HISTORY 3823G**  
**Global Twenty-First Century History**  
**Fall/Winter 2020-21**  
**Synchronous online meeting hours Wednesdays 11:30-1:30 pm, Winter Term**

**Instructor: Professor William J. Turkel**

Office Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 5-5:45pm or by appointment, meeting online only  
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**This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.**

**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:**

***Expected Preparation***

You will be given a short collection of readings to do before each scheduled online meeting. It is crucial that you take this requirement seriously and read the materials carefully. Since teamwork is an essential component of this class (and your grade), students who are not prepared for class will not only be letting themselves down, but some of their classmates, too.

***Participation and Professionalism***

You are required to participate in each scheduled online meeting. *Failure to participate in more than two online meetings without prior approval or a note from your academic counsellor will result in a failing grade.* Since you will be working closely with others using teleconferencing and shared online documents, it is important to be respectful, to share your own ideas and to listen carefully to the ideas of others.

### ***Teamwork and Peer Evaluation***

Each scheduled online meeting you will be randomly assigned to a team of about 7 people for that day's in-class activities, which are conducted using Zoom breakout rooms. Towards the end of each class, your team will submit a brief report for group discussion. I read all of these reports and offer general feedback but do not grade them. You will also be randomly assigned to a team of about seven people for each of five graded assignments. These assignments are conducted online using Zoom, MS Teams, and other collaboration tools. The grade for each has an individual component, a team component, and a component that is determined by peer evaluation. I will use these assessments, in conjunction with my own, to determine your individual contribution to team assignments.

### ***Learning Outcomes***

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to

- 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
- Navigate a variety of contemporary sources
- Use computational tools that allow small teams to collaborate in the analysis of digital sources

### **Course Materials:**

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

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Worth</i>	<i>Handed Out</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Zero Date</i>
01. War on Terror (text mining)	20%  (individual 8%, team 8%, peer 4%)	Week 02	Week 03	Week 04
02. Black Box Society (algorithmic bias)	20%	Week 04	Week 05	Week 06
03. Global Supply Chains (networks)	20%	Week 06	Week 07	Week 08
04. Anthropocene (geospatial analysis)	20%	Week 08	Week 09	Week 10
05. After Now (real time monitoring)	20%	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12

Each assignment has a suggested due date and, a week 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.

### **Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self-Reported Absence:**

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.

### **Course Schedule:**

- **Introduction.** Defining the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Five Global Phenomena; Concepts and Methods.
- **The Terrorist's Dilemma.** Al Qaeda and 9/11; Agency Problems; Transaction and Information Costs; Global Outlaws; Following the Money.
- **Everything Becomes War.** War in the Age of Intelligent Machines; Drones; Cyberwar and Active Measures.
- **Black Box Society.** Moore's Law; Identity by Algorithm; Social Sorting and Network Inequality; Spam, Spyware and Trolls; Transparency and Conspiracy.
- **Secrecy, Privacy and Anonymity.** Mass Surveillance; Cryptography; Hacktivism and the Dark Web.
- **Consent of the Networked.** Social Production; Contested Expertise; Enclosure of the Commons; Protest and Social Change.
- NO CLASS – READING WEEK
- **Global Supply Chains.** Licit and Illicit Flows; the Deadly Life of Logistics; Connectography; Extrastatecraft.
- **Capitalist Ruins.** Stuff; Attention and Advertising; Neoliberalism; Financial Crisis; Ordinary Affects.
- **Global Governance.** Paperwork; Seeing like a State; Expertise and Struggle.
- **Anthropocene.** Urbanization; Fossil Fuel Dependency; the Dispossessed; Risk, Catastrophe, Collapse and Extinction.
- **Deep History.** Coevolution and Domestication; Companion Species; Contagion and Chaos; Food Security.
- **After Now.** Technosphere; the Stack; Utopia; Posthumanities; Superintelligences.

### **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).

### ***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).

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 writer's 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/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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

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).

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