

**HISTORY 4712G**  
**The First World War: A Revolutionary Research Experience**  
**Winter 2020-21**  
**Tuesdays 9:30-11:30**

**Instructor: Jonathan F. Vance**

Office Hours: Monday 1-2PM ; Thursday 1-3PM  
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**This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.**

Seminars will be in-person synchronous – students can attend class in-person or virtually through a videoconference platform.

The University is investigating a blend of online and live course delivery, and is being guided by recommendations from health authorities and the provincial and federal governments. The Department of History is committed to providing a superior learning experience for all students, and our faculty members are reimagining their course offerings to take advantage of the best new technologies and practices available in online teaching and learning. Please monitor the department website for course information - we will post updates as soon as they are available.

The syllabus was prepared under the assumption that the course will be held live, with appropriate physical-distancing measures. Should it need to go on-line, there will be adjustments to the format for each week's meeting, but the assignments and expectations will remain the same.

**Course Description:**

This course is an exercise in experiential education that allows students to engage in an intensive research project on some aspect of the First World War. Through discussions, workshops, presentations, hands-on exercises, and written work, students will cover such topics as engaging with primary documents, presenting research in a conference setting, preparing for publication, and identifying other opportunities for the dissemination of research.

**Prerequisite(s):**

Completion of History 4711F. Unless you have either the prerequisite 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.

**Antirequisite(s):**

History 4709E.

**Course Expectations and Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- show familiarity with accurate factual information about a wide range of people, groups, events, and documents relating to the First World War, and understand their significance
- demonstrate superior oral and written communication skills
- analyze secondary sources, including their documentary basis, methods, arguments, strengths, limitations, implications, and significance for the field
- solve research problems by identifying a topic, refining it to a significant and answerable historical question, determining the essential components of the argument, organizing those components, and drawing conclusions

**Course Materials:**

There are no required texts for the course.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Students must complete all coursework. Failure to complete all assigned coursework will result in a failing grade.

**Assignments:**

3MT (19 January 2021)	15%
Research proposal (9 February 2021)	25%
Seminar participation	20%
Major research project (30 March 2021)	40%

**Course Schedule:**

5 January – Introduction – Crafting your 3MT

To begin the course, students will be introduced to the concept of the Three-Minute Thesis, which will constitute their first presentation. They begin to target their thinking towards a short presentation lasting three minutes and including a single Powerpoint slide. As part of this process, students will engage in historiographical research to determine what has been written in the particular subfield, and where their work might fit.

12 January – Beginning in the archives

The challenges of working with archival documents – locating them, accessing them, problems of language, practicalities of archives (arranging work patterns, photography, note-taking, restrictions on access, etc).

19 January - 3MT presentations

Each student will make a 3MT presentation, followed by a Q&A and group discussion to provide feedback and air suggestions for improving the project. For each presentation, another member of the seminar will be assigned to act as respondent, to begin the discussion.

26 January – The proposal

Having hammered down a subject, students will now work on the formal essay proposal, consisting of a brief statement of the research questions to be addressed, the state of the literature (with a bibliography of representative secondary sources), the primary sources to be used (again, a source list that is representative rather than exhaustive), and a targeted and timed research plan, to ensure that all tasks are completed in an orderly fashion.

2 February – Workshop week

On these weeks, students can choose to work in the archives with their archival material, or in the seminar room with the professor (who will be available to provide assistance) and other students.

9 February – Research proposal presentations

Each student will present a research paper proposal, followed by Q&A and discussion. For each presentation, another member of the seminar will be assigned to act as respondent, to begin the discussion.

16 February – Reading week – no seminar meeting

23 February – Workshop week

2 March – Preparing for publication

As their research papers come closer to completion, students will consider various formats for the dissemination of their work: traditional scholarly article, other on-line repositories, outlets that might broadly be considered as public history, and other non-conventional opportunities.

9 March – Workshop week

16 March – Check-in week – progress, obstacles, triumphs

23 March – Workshop week

30 March – The Finished Product

With much fanfare, students will present their finished work, under the discerning eyes of a panel of experts from the university and the community.

### **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).

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 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.

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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