

HISTORY 3813E: PUBLIC HISTORY

Fall/Winter 2021-2022

(In-Person, Synchronous)

Mondays, 10:30am – 12:30pm; Classroom: TBA

Professor Mike Dove

Office Hours: Mondays, 1pm-3pm, or by appointment

Department of History, Lawson Hall 1207

mdove2@uwo.ca



Image: *Overlaid London Streetscape*

Copyright: *W.J. Turkel*

The format of this course will be in-person synchronous. As of June 2021, Western University is preparing for a full return to in-person learning in the 2021-2022 academic year. Students will be expected to attend all classes and site visits. Please note that this is a draft syllabus. The final version of the syllabus, including a list of all reading assignments, site visits and guest lecturers, will be available on the OWL-Sakai course website prior to the beginning of classes in September.

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.

Course Syllabus:

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.

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 a short presentation of their work to their peers;
- the experience of working in small groups 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 a Friday during the second half of the winter term. 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.



Image: The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto, ON

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

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.

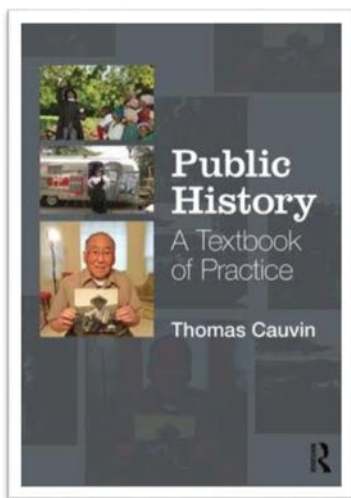


Image: Thomas Cauvin, *Public History: A Textbook of Practice* (Taylor & Francis, 2016).

Methods of Evaluation:

Class Participation	25%	
‘Me in 3’ Exhibit	15%	Due: 25 October
Critical Review	25%	Due: 29 November
Public History Project	35%	

Students are expected to attend all classes (including site visits), complete the weekly readings, participate in weekly discussions, and complete all assignments.

Because public interaction is a key element to practicing public history, scheduled weekly classes will often take the form of a combined lecture-seminar format. **Participation** in discussions is essential to having a quality learning experience. Students are expected to regularly contribute informed and thoughtful opinions on assigned readings. To better prepare students for each discussion, several questions relating to the readings will be posted on the course website. Students are expected to be attentive, make comments, and ask questions, especially during guest lectures and student presentations. Students are also invited to share their personal stories and news of any recent events that relate to a particular week's topic. 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. Presentations will take place during class scheduled for Monday, 25 October 2021. More information will be provided through the OWL course website. If an SRA is declared for this assignment, then the student must submit a recorded version of their presentation to the instructor within 48 hours of the due date, ie. by 12:30pm EST Wednesday, 27 October 2021 and present it to the class in our next meeting on 08 November. The 'Me in 3 Exhibit' will be weighted at 15% of the final course grade.

Students will write a 6-8 page **Critical Review** of a work of "popular history." This genre includes film, fiction, graphic novels, apps and computer games with an historical element. A list of topics will be posted on the course website, but permission to review other sources may be granted based on the meeting of certain criteria. Students will inform the instructor of their selection by 08 November and the review will be due on by 11:59pm EST on Monday, 29 November. If declaring an SRA for this assignment, then your review will be due 48 hours later, ie. 01 December. Late papers will be deducted 5% for the first day and 2% each day thereafter, including weekends. It is weighted at 25% of the final course grade. More information about this assignment will be provided on the course website.

Groups of 3-4 students will complete a **Public History Project** during the winter 2022 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 and group contract, due by 11:59 EST on 31 January; a 20-30 minute 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 Wednesday, 01

April 2022 (last day of Winter Term classes). More information will be provided through the OWL course website. The Public History Project is weighted at 35% of the final course grade (5% - proposal; 15% - presentation; 15% - final write-up).

Tentative 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 partially taught through the OWL (powered by Sakai) course website. It contains all course readings except the textbook and is where students will access the final course syllabus, announcements, the course calendar, additional assigned readings, their grades, and submit their midterm take-home exam and group project written work. 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. We will work towards finding a solution. Thank you for enrolling!



Images: *Dunkirk* film poster; *Assassin's Creed* video game; Indigenous protests; Alma College ruins; family history mementos; *Maus* graphic novel

FALL 2021

SEPTEMBER

13 - Welcome & Introductions: Defining 'Public History' and 'the public(s)'

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 1-21; 205-206; 216-226; 230-245; 250-266.

TBA

20 - Archives, Museums and Historic Sites, Part I

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 27-48; 140-157.

TBA

27 - SITE VISIT/ GUEST SPEAKER! (TBA)

OCTOBER

04 - Archives, Museums and Historic Sites, Part II

Readings: TBA

11 - NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING!

18 - SITE VISIT/ GUEST SPEAKER! (TBA)

25 - 'Me in 3' Exhibit Presentations!

NOVEMBER

01 - NO CLASS: FALL STUDY BREAK!

08 - Peoples' Stories: Family & Community History

Critical Review Topic Due!

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 89-102.

TBA

15 - Heritage Conservation/ GUEST SPEAKER! (TBA)

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 55-81.

TBA

22 - Popular History, Part I: Comics, Games, & Novels

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 107-110; 115-124; 163-172; 195-197.

TBA

29 - Popular History, Part II: The Web, Film & Television

Critical Review Due!

DECEMBER

06 - TBA

WINTER 2022

JANUARY

03 - Careers in Public History: Preparing Letters, Resumes and Applications

Readings: TBA

10 - Digital Public History

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 174-183; 197-200.

TBA

17 - Archival Collections & Management

Readings: TBA

24 – SITE VISIT/ GUEST SPEAKER! (TBA)

31 - The Business of History, Part I: Corporate Uses of the Past

Group Project & Contract Due!

Readings: TBA

FEBRUARY

07 - **SITE VISIT/ GUEST SPEAKER! (TBA)**

14 - Historical Research Consulting **(GUEST SPEAKER TBA)**

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 250-266.

TBA

21 - NO CLASS: WINTER STUDY BREAK!

28 - The Business of History, Part II: Heritage Tourism

Readings: TBA

***CLASS TRIP TO ROM! (Tentatively scheduled: Friday, 04 March!)**

MARCH

07 – Public History Group Project Presentation Preparation (No Class in lieu of ROM Trip!)

14 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

21 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

28 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

Final Write-ups for Public History Group Projects Due by 11:59pm EST, Wednesday, 01 April!



Image: Camping on the moon – heritage tourism

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness

DRAFT