

HISTORY 3823G
Global Twenty-First Century History
Fall/Winter 2021-22
Wednesdays 11:30-1:30 pm, Winter Term

N.B. This course combines synchronous and asynchronous online activities with in-person classes in UCC Room 66 (WALS Classroom).

Details will be announced on OWL.

Instructor: Professor William J. Turkel

Office Hours: TBA

Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2267

Email: wturkel@uwo.ca

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 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 meeting. *Failure to participate in more than two 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 as well as in person, 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 meeting you will be randomly assigned to a team of about 7 people for that day's activities. Grades for team activities will be shared by all members of the team. At the end of each team activity you will submit a very brief peer evaluation for the members of your team. 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 course materials will be provided electronically on OWL.

You will also be required to use software provided by the university:

- To participate in class and team meetings you will need to install and log in to Zoom
<https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>
- You will need access to Microsoft Office tools (especially Word, PowerPoint and Excel). These are available through your Office 365 account
https://wts.uwo.ca/office_365/index.html
- Class sessions and graded assignments will also require teamwork that will be conducted through MS Teams
https://wts.uwo.ca/microsoft_teams/index.html

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%	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 (simulation)	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 tests/midterms, including Self Reported Absences (SRA):

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test.

Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Online courses will have online makeup tests.

In person classes have scheduled makeup tests scheduled at the following times:

Fall Term

- Tests scheduled before November 1 – the makeup will take place November 8 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between November 2 and December 7 – the makeup will take place December 8 at 9:30pm.

Winter Term

- Tests scheduled before February 19 – the makeup will take place February 28 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between February 20 and March 31 – the makeup will take place April 1 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.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test slots.

Students should be aware that when they have submitted an SRA for one test, they are not permitted to write a test or complete an assignment for another course during the period covered by the SRA. Failure to observe this regulation will result in the cancellation of the SRA and the possible application of late penalties.

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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

- **Week 01. Introduction.** Defining the 21st Century; Five Global Phenomena; Concepts and Methods.
- **Week 02. The Terrorist's Dilemma.** Al Qaeda and 9/11; Agency Problems; Transaction and Information Costs; Global Outlaws; Following the Money.
- **Week 03. Everything Becomes War.** War in the Age of Intelligent Machines; Drones; Cyberwar and Active Measures.
- **Week 04. Black Box Society.** Moore's Law; Identity by Algorithm; Social Sorting and Network Inequality; Spam, Spyware and Trolls; Transparency and Conspiracy.
- **Week 05. Secrecy, Privacy and Anonymity.** Mass Surveillance; Cryptography; Hacktivism and the Dark Web.
- **Week 06. Consent of the Networked.** Social Production; Contested Expertise; Enclosure of the Commons; Protest and Social Change.
- **Week 07. Global Supply Chains.** Licit and Illicit Flows; the Deadly Life of Logistics; Connectography; Extrastatecraft.
- **Week 08. Capitalist Ruins.** Stuff; Attention and Advertising; Neoliberalism; Financial Crisis; Ordinary Affects.
- **Week 09. Global Governance.** Paperwork; Seeing like a State; Expertise and Struggle.
- **Week 10. Anthropocene.** Urbanization; Fossil Fuel Dependency; the Dispossessed; Risk, Catastrophe, Collapse and Extinction.
- **Week 11. Deep History.** Coevolution and Domestication; Companion Species; Contagion and Chaos; Food Security.
- **Week 12. After Now.** Technosphere; the Stack; Utopia; Posthumanities; Superintelligences.

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

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