

**HISTORY 2124A [001]**  
**Sounds, Sights & Bits:**  
**Explorations in 20th Century Canadian Popular Culture**  
**Summer 2022**  
**Mon - Thurs**  
**1:30 - 3:30 PM; location tba**

**Instructor: Prof. Peter V. Krats**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
**Department of History, Office: Stevenson Hall 2123**  
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**This draft syllabus presumes an “in person” course.**

**Course Description:**

Canadian popular culture: poor-quality imitation of American, or crucial element of Canadian identity, worthy of "Canadian Content" regulations and financial support? This course provides some background and then traces the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century evolution of "Canadian popular culture," offering glimpses into music, film, television, sport and more. What was enjoyed, why, and was it "Canadian?"

***Antirequisite:***

History 2124 F/G

**Course Syllabus:**

Canadian popular culture is sometimes derided as “inferior mimicry” and “derivative” of “pop culture” from south of the 49th parallel. Was (is?) that the case? We trace the evolution of “Canadian popular culture,” offering glimpses into music, film and television, sport, consumption and more. What was enjoyed, why, and was it “Canadian?” Scrutiny of “voices, images, and more reveal histories little appreciated, with both impressive originality and sycophantic imitation readily found. We will examine *popular* culture in various guises – from radio and television to film to music, sports and more. The character of that cultural product; the role of changing tastes and technologies; the influence of regulation versus free enterprise; national versus international perspectives; and the changing “mass” market all come into play. History 2124 challenges notions about Canadian popular culture, suggesting that “our” culture is more multifaceted than the caricatures provided by either nationalist “cheerleading” or dismissive rejection.

**Course Materials:**

There are no course texts – the 2124 OWL site includes Power points (PDF) form will provide some of the materials from the class, but not the audio and video. These power points are released to students after the class. There are other course materials (e.g. Forums) on the OWL site.

## Methods of Evaluation:

Participation in OWL Assigned Forums	20
Group asynchronous Chat on OWL	10
Comments on Lectures [750 words / 3 page paper]	15
Thoughts on a Cultural Element [1000 words /4 page paper]	25
Final Exam	30

## 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*. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date is March 21 at 3pm.

## Course Schedule and Readings: \* several topics extend beyond one class; subject to change

1. Introductions / Contexts of Canadian Culture / Culture Contemplated
2. Glimpses of 19th Century Popular Culture
3. Popular Culture Meets Urban-industrial Capitalism
4. Tiddley Winks to “Reaching for a Lucky”: Popular Culture as Control & as Site of Contention
5. Music & Machines → Mesmerizing the Masses
6. Entertaining Canadians: Expanding Media
7. Sporting Spectacles in a Modernizing Canada
8. Contexts of “Modern” Popular Culture: W.W. II to the 1980s
9. Consuming as Progressive Popular Culture
10. *Seeing Things*: Images & Popular Culture in Canada, 1939-1990s
11. “Bits” of Canadian Popular Culture since the 1990s

## 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.

## 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

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).