



The University of Western Ontario

HISTORY 9801B

Public History Group Project

Winter 2026

Professor Mike Dove

Office Hours: TBA

Department of History, Lawson Hall 1207

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NOTE: This is a draft syllabus. The final version will be made available on OWL Brightspace prior to the start of classes in January.

Course Description:

The continuation to HIS9800A, HIS9801B is a combined seminar and project-based course, examining history as it is communicated to, and understood by, the public. The theory, history and practice of public history will be discussed, and students will learn the methods and skills used by public historians through guest speakers, site visits, workshops and projects.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, students should have:

- conducted graduate level research in primary and secondary sources;
- examined the theory and history of public history;
- an understanding of the main avenues for practicing public history;
- a broad range of the different skills that public historians use;
- an ability to communicate history to the public through a variety of media;
- experience with public speaking through class discussions and presentations;
- conducted oral history interviews in both primary and supporting roles;
- a familiarity with the major issues and legislation public historians face;
- an ability to examine critically public presentations of history;
- practiced non-traditional historical skills such as project management, teamwork, budgeting, promotion, and working with community stakeholders;
- had opportunities for reflective, collaborative, service-based, and experiential learning;
- established contacts with practicing public historians.

Enrollment Restrictions:

This course is restricted to MA History students in the Public History field.

Course Materials:

All readings are available through the OWL Brightspace course website.

Methods of Evaluation*:

Ignite Talk (individual mark)	January 20	10%
Participation (individual mark)	January – April	20%
Oral History Project (individual mark)	By April 10	20%
Group Project Midterm Report (group mark)	February 27	20%
Group Project Final (group mark)	April 17	30%

***More details will be included in the final version of the syllabus.**

Course Schedule and Readings**:

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	January 06	Introduction – The Group Project: <i>London 200</i>	LwH 1218
2	January 13	Oral History Refresh/ Timelines	LwH 1218
3	January 20	Ignite Talks	LwH 1218
4	January 27	The Public History Internship – HIS9802 Syllabus & The Interview Group Contract Due	LwH 1218
5	February 03	Documentary Film I: Guest Speaker TBA	LwH 1218
6	February 10	Documentary Film II: Guest Speaker TBA	LwH 1218
	February 16-20	WINTER STUDY BREAK!	NO CLASSES!
7	February 24	Group Project Update Midterm Report Due February 27	LwH 1218
8	March 03	War & Peace	Site Visit: TBA
9	March 10	History & Public Policy	LwH 1218
10	March 17	Corporate History/ Heritage Tourism	LwH 1218
11	March 24	The Business of History	Site Visit: TBA
12	March 31	Dramatizing History Group Project Update	LwH 1218
13	April 07	Historical Walking Tours	Site Visit: TBA

****More details will be included in the final version of the syllabus.**

Additional Statements

Health/Wellness Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

Accessibility Options:

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Request for Accommodations/Medical Issues:

Students are entitled to their privacy and consequently they do not need to disclose personal information to their course professors. In the event that students feel the need to discuss personal information, they should see the graduate chair. Unlike undergraduate students, graduate students cannot be referred to Social Science Academic Counselling to have their medical or non-medical circumstances evaluated and to receive a recommendation for accommodation. Those facilities are for undergraduates only, and there is no process beyond the department to secure recommendations for accommodation. Our process is that faculty should deal with routine requests for extensions. However, a student's request for accommodation (on medical, non-medical, compassionate grounds) should go to the graduate chair, Prof. Francine McKenzie (historygradchair@uwo.ca) who will consult and communicate with faculty. Additionally, faculty and students should communicate with the grad chair about any case in which work is not submitted before grades are due. In the event that the

graduate chair is also the course professor, then a request for accommodation can be taken to the department chair.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Students in this course may use generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for activities such as researching and refining their ideas, or drafting an outline to organize their thoughts—but not for generating prose. All writing submitted in this course must be their own. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification and advice.

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 web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact: support@uwo.ca

NOTE: See Policies and Statements on the Graduate section of the History Department website:

https://history.uwo.ca/graduate/program_information/graduate_policies_and_statements.html

This includes additional information on academic support services for health and wellness and on other academic policies, including copyright, plagiarism, and accessibility.