

HISTORY 3813E: PUBLIC HISTORY

Fall/Winter 2022-2023

(In-Person, Synchronous)

Mondays, 10:30am – 12:30pm; Classroom: SH 3355

Professor Mike Dove

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

Department of History, Lawson Hall 1207

mdove2@uwo.ca



Image: Overlaid London Streetscape

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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 delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic:

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line asynchronously (i.e. posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

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;
- and a clearer sense of the diversity of career options open to them.

***Optional day out to visit sites in St. Thomas, Elgin County, and Port Stanley:**

Friday, 23 September 2022!

Please take note that we have booked a coach bus for a day-long class trip to various heritage sites in St. Thomas, Elgin County and Port Stanley. Funding for coach transportation, admissions fees and lunch have been graciously provided through the Betty Bartlett Public History Experiential Learning Fund for Local History. Students will receive additional information and updates regarding this trip during our first class of the year.



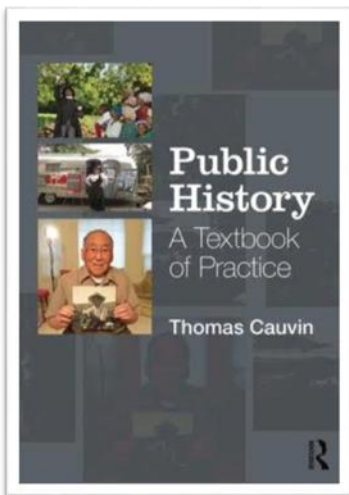
Image: St. Thomas Elevated Park.

Course Materials:

There is one textbook for the course, freely available to be read online through Western Libraries:

<https://ocul->

[uwu.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](https://ocul-uwu.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 at the Western Book Store.

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 | 10% |
| Site Reviews (4) | 20% |
| Public History Project | 45% |

Students must complete all assignments in order to pass this course. Students are also expected to attend all classes (including Monday site visits), complete the weekly readings, and to participate in weekly discussions.

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 provide students with the opportunity to tell their own story by curating 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, 07 November 2022. More information will be provided through the OWL course website. The ‘Me in 3 Exhibit’ will be weighted at 10% of the final course grade.

Students will submit written **Site Reviews** on their experiences during each of the following 4 (four) site visits we make during the course: Eldon House, Museum of Ontario Archaeology, Museum London, TBA (January 2023). Each review will be limited to 500 words and should incorporate material from the relevant course lectures and readings. Questions and short readings to assist with the writing of these reflections will be provided on OWL. All submissions should be made to Drop Box via the OWL course website by 11:59pm EST of the following Friday. Each review will be worth 5% 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 2023 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 30 January; a 20-30 minute presentation of the project to the class, to be scheduled on one of the designated class dates in March/ April; and a final written proposal of 10-12 pages, due on Monday, 10 April 2023 (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 (10% - proposal; 15% - presentation; 20% - final write-up).

Policy for Missed/ Late Assignments:

Students with an approved absence from an assignment will be required to complete it at a later date. Only the academic counselling office of a student's home faculty can approve such a request. Late submissions of written assignments will be penalized 5% the first day, and 2% each day thereafter, including holidays and weekends.

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 written assignments. 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 2022

SEPTEMBER

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

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

TBA

19 - Archives, Museums and Historic Sites

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

TBA

26 - SITE VISIT: ELDON HOUSE!

NOTE: Site Review Due by 11:59EST on Friday, 30 September!

OCTOBER

03 - SITE VISIT: MUSEUM OF ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY

NOTE: Site Review Due by 11:59EST on Friday, 07 October!

10 - NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING!

17 - SITE VISIT: MUSEUM LONDON!

NOTE: Site Review Due by 11:59EST on Friday, 21 October!

24 – ‘Reading Objects’ Material Culture Workshop

SITE VISIT: WESTERN’S MEDICAL ARTIFACT COLLECTION!

NOTE: There is no Site Review assignment for this visit.

31 - NO CLASS: FALL STUDY BREAK!

NOVEMBER

07 - ‘Me in 3’ Exhibit Presentations!

14 - Peoples’ Stories: Family & Community History

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 89-102.

TBA

21 - Heritage Conservation/ GUEST SPEAKER: DR, MARK TOVEY, HERITAGE SPECIALIST!

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 55-81.

TBA

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

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

TBA

DECEMBER

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

TBA

WINTER 2023

JANUARY

09 - Careers in Public History: Preparing Letters, Resumes and Applications/ THE GROUP PROJECT

Readings: TBA

16 - Digital Public History

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

TBA

23 - Archival Collections & Management

Readings: TBA

30 - SITE VISIT: TBA!

NOTE: Group Project & Contract Due by 11:59EST today!

NOTE: Site Review Due by 11:59EST on Friday, 03 February!

FEBRUARY

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

Readings: TBA

13 - Historical Research Consulting/ GUEST SPEAKER: SEAN STOYLES, CDCl, OTTAWA!

Readings: Cauvin textbook, pp. 250-266.

TBA

20 - NO CLASS: WINTER STUDY BREAK!

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

MARCH

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

Readings: TBA

13 - Public History Group Project Presentation Preparation - Group Meetings

20 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

27 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

APRIL

03 - Public History Group Project Presentations!

Final Write-ups for Public History Group Projects Due by 11:59pm EST, Wednesday, 10 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