

History 4806 G
Indigenous Peoples and Archives
Winter 2024

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This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

This methodologically oriented course will critically examine archival sciences as these relate to Indigenous peoples. Long perceived as politically neutral, the collection, storage, and access to archival records is now identified as an act of settler-colonialism that displaces Indigenous peoples and their historical practices. A collaborative class project and ongoing analysis of domestic and international archives will consider themes of power, intersectionality, and reconciliation. This course will begin with colonial archives including those of the Department of Indian Affairs and the Hudson's Bay Company. Themes that will be considered include intersectionality through the Two-Spirit Archive at the University of Manitoba and ArQuives in Toronto. Records that are digitally born will be considered through the Library of Congress Twitter Archive, touching upon tweets made by the United States Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, and tweets relating to the #IdleNoMore Movement. Cultural specificities that inform Indigenous memory practices will be considered through the examples of the Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Prerequisite(s):

2.0 History courses at the 2200-level or above, or 2.0 Indigenous Studies courses at the 2000-level or above.

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 Level Learning Outcomes:

- An understanding of the key terms and concepts associated with archival sciences.
- An introduction to the power imbalances within settler colonial archives and a consideration of new methodologies that seek to rectify these.
- An introduction to Indigenous forms of documentary heritage and a consideration of how these have been integrated within settler-colonial and community-based archives.
- Experience with archival practices through a collaborative project with Western University's Archives and Special Collections or another local partner.

Methods of Evaluation

- **Participation:** Ongoing, Weight 20%
- **UNESCO Memory of the World Annotated Bibliography:** Due Week 4, Weight 20%
- **Final Project Part 1:** Due Week 8, Weight 20%
- **Final Project Part 2:** Due Week 10, Weight 20%
- **Final Project Part 3:** Due Week 12, Weight 20%

Participation - Ongoing (20%)

This will be a participatory, discussion-based class with questions posed regarding specific themes, concepts, and case studies. The level of student engagement will constitute a final participation grade. Attendance at 80% of the lectures will be required for a passing grade.

UNESCO Memory of the World Annotated Bibliography - Week 3 (20%)

Memory of the World is a commemorative designation that is overseen by UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Office. This designation recognizes archival collections that are nationally and internationally significant, and which are vital to understanding the narrative of our shared humanity. Students will be provided with a list of 50 international archival collections that have been commemorated through UNESCO Memory of the World. Students will choose 5 collections from this list, representing at least three different countries. Students will prepare an annotated bibliography in which they will consider the scope, content, provenance, and administrative history of the collections. Students will also be asked to identify the narrative that is being upheld through the collections that they have chosen and their commemoration as being 'internationally significant.

Experiential Learning Final Assignment - Ongoing (60%)

This assignment will be designed in consultation with Archives and Special Collections at Western University or another community-based museum and archive. It will feature **individual** and **collaborative** components. These will be further designed, with weights appropriately allocated, based on the specificities of the collection. The first part of this project will have students individually transcribing documents. The second part of this project will have students individually interpreting primary sources through secondary research. The final part of this project will have students collectively designing a research output that will be shared with members of the History Department. Students will individually submit a final reflection that considers their role in the research output. **While some aspects of this project will produce collaborative outputs, the individual grade of a student will be based solely upon their own work and contribution.**

Late Assignments: The penalty for late work without an approved accommodation from Academic Counselling is 2% a day, including weekends, with a maximum deduction of 20%. After that point assignments will not be accepted.

Course Materials

All readings will be available through OWL. No additional purchases will be required.

Course Schedule and Readings

- Week One: A History of Canadian Archives

- Week Two: Indigenous Forms of Documentation
- Week Three: Archival Records and the Department of Indian Affairs
- Week Four: The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Week Five: Finding Indigenous Peoples in 'Non-Indigenous' Collections
- Week Six: Ceremonial Practices, Salvage Anthropology, and Intellectual Property
- Week Seven: Documenting Land Based Knowledge
- Week Eight: Developing Community Archives
- Week Nine: Digital Born Indigenous Archives
- Week Ten: Intersectionality and Archival Collections
- Week Eleven: Archives, Privacy Law, and Access to Information
- Week Twelve: International Examples

Additional Statements

Use of Generative AI Tools: All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

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