

HISTORY 2201E

# Canada's Past

## A Critical History from the Origins to the Present

Fall/Winter 2025-26

lectures Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:30-4:20pm, **location TBA**  
plus 1-hour tutorial each week, **location TBA**

**Instructor:** Prof. Alan MacEachern

**Office Hours:** Lawson 2268, Mon 9:30-11:30

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**This is a summer 2025 **draft** outline.**

Please see the OWL Brightspace course site in September 2025 for the final version.



from Benjamin West, *The Death of General Wolfe*, 1770 & Kent Monkman, *The Scream*, 2017

### Course Description:

This course surveys the history of this place now called Canada, from the last ice age to today, with an emphasis on Indigenous peoples, colonialism, and imperialism; the history of warfare and international relations; immigration, industrialization, and state formation; and the diverse ways that gender, race, and class have shaped the lives of Canadians.

**Antirequisite(s):**

History 1201E, History 1202F/G, History 2203E, History 2204F/G, History 2205E, History 2710F/G, History 2202, History 2206.

**Course Syllabus:**

Students will write one annotated bibliography, one primary source-based assignment, one major essay, and two exams. Students will also discuss readings and lectures in tutorials.

**Learning outcomes:**

By the course's completion, students will be able to

- identify, investigate, and discuss key themes and developments in the history of Canada,
- relate contemporary issues in Canadian life to their historical development,
- interpret and evaluate primary source historical documents, exploring their factual basis, assumptions, biases, and rhetoric,
- analyze and assess secondary sources, and
- improve their skills in communicating ideas and arguments through class discussions and written assignments.

**Course Materials:**

The textbooks – Wardhaugh and MacEachern, *Origins: Canadian History to Confederation*, 8th ed., and *Destinies: Canadian History since Confederation*, 8th ed. – are available as PDFs in the OWL Brightspace course site. Print copies are available on 1-day loan in Weldon Library.

All other course material is available on the course OWL site and/or through the Western Libraries system. Weldon Library has [research resources for History students](#) and a [research guide specifically for History 2201E students](#). The *Origins* and *Destinies* textbooks have extensive bibliographies as well.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

*Further information on all assignments will be provided on OWL, in class, and/or in tutorial.*

- The course's major writing assignment is a **research essay**, using secondary and primary sources, on a topic related to any period of Canadian history. Students may choose from a list of potential topics made available to them in September or select their own subject with the approval of their tutorial leader. The essay will be built in 3 stages.

- **Stage 1 – Proposal & annotated bibliography – due on OWL, 10 November – 10%**

Students will submit a 500-word description of their proposed second-term research essay, outlining its topic and tentative thesis, plus an annotated bibliography of 6 secondary sources (100 words per entry = 600 words) that they plan to use in their essay.

- **Stage 2 – Primary source analysis – due on OWL, 26 January – 8%**  
In 2 short essays of 500 words each, students will analyze 2 primary sources that they plan to use in their research essay. (Please submit as 1 document.)
- **Stage 3 – Research essay – due on OWL, 18 March – 22%**  
Building on the preceding steps, students will submit a 3000-word research essay, with foot/endnotes and bibliography.
- **Course engagement – 20%**  
Students are to take part in discussion of the lectures and assigned readings in tutorials. Attendance in tutorials is mandatory, but attendance alone does not constitute participation. Tutorials begin first term during the week of 8 September and second term during the week of 5 January.
  - Note that students will receive a provisional grade (5%) for course engagement when their proposal & annotated bibliography is returned, by 26 November.
- **Mid-year exam – December exam period – 20%**  
The exam will cover all lectures, tutorials, and required readings from the first term, and will consist of short answer and essay questions.
- **Final exam – April exam period – 20%**  
The exam will cover all lectures, tutorials, and required readings from the second term, and will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Make-up midterms and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see the History Department's [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#) page for department procedures and requirements involving make-up exams.

### **Absences, Late Assignments, & Course-specific Policies:**

- The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT is discouraged in this course and is permitted only for activities such as brainstorming and refining ideas or checking grammar and style. Beyond that, you are not to make use of such tools in the writing of course assignments. **All writing submitted in this course must be your own.** (If in doubt, please ask your instructor for clarification.) Written assignments, with the exception of exams, have a built-in, blanket extension: they can be submitted up to 7 days after the due date, without penalty. Beyond that, there will be a 3% deduction per day, including weekends.
- Students are to submit assignments through the OWL Brightspace course site. The Faculty of Social Science's policy statement on plagiarism and the use of plagiarism detection software is outlined in the History Department's [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#) page.
- The UWO Academic Handbook requires that an essay course such as His2201E "must be so structured that the student is required to demonstrate competence in essay writing to pass the course." As such, His2201E students must receive a passing grade on the total value of the essay and its components to pass the course.
- All assignments must be submitted in order to pass the course.

## Course Schedule and Readings:

### Fall Term

- 1. Week of 8 Sept      **Introduction / After the Ice Age**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 1
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Alan MacEachern, "[A Theory, in Practice: Back to the Bering Land Bridge](#)," *ActiveHistory.ca* blog, July 2017.
    - Christopher Moore, "[As Long as the Rivers Have Run and the Grass Has Grown, Seriously](#)," *Christopher Moore's History News* blog, July 2017.
  
- 2. Week of 15 Sept      **Indigenous Peoples & Newcomers**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 2
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Eva Jewell & Ian Mosby, "Call to Action Accountability: A 2023 Status Update" (2023).
    - Jim Miller, "Which 'Native' History? By Whom? For Whom?" *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (Fall 2008), 33-5.
  
- 3. Week of 22 Sept      **New France to 1663**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 3-4
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Alan Gordon, "Teaching Quebec: Why Quebec's History Matters to English Canada," *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (Summer 2013), 47-50.
    - Allan Greer, "1608 as Foundation," *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (Fall 2008), 20-3.
  
- 4. Week of 29 Sept      **New France to 1755**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 5-6
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Allan Greer, "[There Was No Seignorial System](#)," *Borealia* blog, Sep 2018.
    - Benoît Grenier and Alain Laberge, "[Beyond the 'System': The Enduring Legacy of Seignorial Property](#)," *Borealia* blog, Oct 2018.
  
- 5. Week of 6 Oct      **New France to 1755 / Empires at War**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 7-8
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Jason Farago, "[The Myth of North America in One Painting](#)," *New York Times*, 25 Nov 2020. [Will be shared with the class in advance.]
    - Donald Fyson, "The Conquered and the Conqueror: The Mutual Adaptation of the *Canadiens* and the British in Quebec, 1759-75," *Revisiting 1759: The Conquest of Canada in Historical Perspective*, eds. Phillip Buckner and John G. Reid (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012), 190-217.

- 6. Week of 13 Oct **BNA & the American Revolution**
  - **Note:** There is no class on Monday, 13 Oct, Thanksgiving Day.
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 9-10
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Jack Little, “Americans into Canadians: National Identity North of the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel, 1792-1850,” *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (Spring 2009), 57-9.
    - Alan Taylor, “The Divided Ground: Upper Canada, New York, and the Iroquois Six Nations, 1783-1815,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, vol. 22 no. 1 (Spring 2002), 55-75.
  
- 7. Week of 20 Oct **BNA from 1791**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 11-12
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Charmaine A. Nelson, “Neither Indigenous, Nor Settlers: The Place of Africans in Canada’s Founding Nations’ Model,” *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (2016), 43-6.
    - Afua Cooper, “Acts of Resistance: Black Men and Women Engage in Slavery in Upper Canada, 1793-1803,” *Ontario History* (spring 2007), 5-17.
  
- 8. Week of 27 Oct **Beyond the River & the Bay**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 13-14
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Carolyn Podruchny, “Writing, Ritual, and Folklore: Imagining the Cultural Geography of Voyageurs,” *Method and Meaning in Canadian Environmental History*, eds. Alan MacEachern and William J. Turkel (Toronto: Nelson, 2009), 55-74.
  
- Week of 3 Nov **Fall reading week**
  
- 9. Week of 10 Nov **BNA to 1850: Growth, Rebellion, & Reform**
  - **Note:** Proposal & annotated bibliography due, 10 Nov.
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 15-17
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Veronica Strong-Boag, “Not Alone: Writing Canadian History as if the World Mattered,” *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (Fall 2008), 20-23.
    - E.J. Errington, “‘Information Wanted’: Women Emigrants in a Transatlantic World,” *Canada and the British World: Culture, Migration, and Identity*, ed. Philip Buckner (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2006), 10-28.
  
- 10. Week of 17 Nov **BNA in the mid-19th century**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 18-20

- Tutorial reading:
  - Adele Perry, “Hardy Backwoodsmen, Wholesome Women, and Steady Families: Immigration and the Construction of a White Society in Colonial British Columbia, 1849-1871,” *Histoire Sociale/Social History* 33 (2000), 343-60.
- 11. Week of 24 Nov **The Road to Confederation**
  - Lecture reading: *Origins*, ch. 21
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Thomas H.B. Symons, “John A. Macdonald: A Founder and Builder,” *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (Summer 2015), 6-10.
    - James Daschuk, “Acknowledging Patriarch’s Failures Will Help Canada Mature as a Nation,” *Canadian Issues/Thèmes Canadiens* (Summer 2015), 39-46.
- 12. Week of 1 Dec **Expansion & Colonialism to 1885**
  - **Note:** 1 Dec is the last day to withdraw from His2201 without academic penalty.
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 3-4
  - Tutorial: Exam review
- 13. Week of 8 Dec **TBA**

### **Winter term**

- 14. Week of 5 Jan **Political Growing Pains, to 1914**
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 4-5
  - *No tutorial this week.*
- 15. Week of 12 Jan **Economic & Social Growing Pains, to 1914**
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 6-8
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Mark Kishlansky, “How to Read a Document,” *Sources of the West: Readings in Western Civilization*, 3rd ed., vol. 1 (Longman, 1998), xi-xx.
      - *There’ll be discussion of the upcoming primary source analysis, so have your planned source in mind!*
      - *(Also returning the Dec exam.)*
- 16. Week of 19 Jan **The First World War**
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 10
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Jeremy Diamond, “Vimy Ridge Monument: Part of Canadian Identity & Culture,” *Canadian Issues* fall 2015, 7-9.
    - Jamie Swift, “How the Yearning for Peace after a Trench War’s Horror Gave Way to Vapid ‘Vimyism,’” *Canadian Issues* fall 2015, 36-39.
- 17. Week of 26 Jan **The Roaring Twenties**

- **Note:** Primary source analysis due, 26 Jan.
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 11
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Jane Nicholas, “Beauty Advice for the Canadian Modern Girl in the 1920s,” in *Consuming Modernity: Gendered Behaviour and Consumerism before the Baby Boom*, eds. Cheryl Krasnick Warsh and Dan Malleck (UBC Press, 2013), 11-33.
- 18. Week of 2 Feb           **The Dirty Thirties**
    - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 12
    - Tutorial reading:
      - Irving Abella and Harold Troper, “‘The Line must be drawn somewhere’: Canada and the Jewish Refugees,” *Canadian Historical Review* 60, 2, 1979: 178-209.
  - 19. Week of 9 Feb           **The Second World War**
    - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 13
    - Tutorial reading:
      - Timothy Balzer, “‘In Case the Raid is Unsuccessful...’ Selling Dieppe to Canadians,” *Canadian Historical Review* 87, 3, 2006: 409-30.
- Week of 16 Feb           **Winter Reading Week – no classes**
- 20. Week of 23 Feb           **A Brave New World, 1945-60**
    - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 14
    - Tutorial reading:
      - Christopher Dummitt, “Finding a Place for Father: Selling the Barbeque in Post-war Canada,” *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 9 (1998): 209-23.
  - 21. Week of 2 Mar           **Protest & Reform, the 1960s**
    - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 15
    - Tutorial reading:
      - Katrina Ackerman & Shannon Stettner, “‘The Public is Not Ready for This’: 1969 & the Long Road to Abortion Access,” *Canadian Historical Review* 100, 2 (June 2019), 239-56.
  - 22. Week of 9 Mar           **Coming Together? the 1970s**
    - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 17
    - Tutorial reading:
      - Stephanie Bangarth, “What Has Human Rights Discourse Meant to Canadian Immigration and Refugee Policy?” *Canadian Issues*, fall/winter 2022, 14-19.
      - Morton Weinfeld, “The Good, the Bad, and the Lucky: Immigration and the Canadian Experience,” *Canadian Issues*, spring 2017, 18-21.



- 23. Week of 16 Mar      **Holding it Together, the 1980s**
  - **Note:** Research essay due, 18 Mar.
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 16 & 18
  - Tutorial reading:
    - CBC History, “[Night of the Long Knives](#),” 2001.
    - Howard Leeson, “Four Lenses of Patriation,” *Constitutional Forum*, 26 (2), 2017, 43-56.
  
- 24. Week of 23 Mar      **Coming Apart? the 1990s**
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 19
  - Tutorial reading:
    - Canadian Historical Association, “[The History of Violence Against Indigenous Peoples Fully Warrants the Use of the Word ‘Genocide’](#),” *ActiveHistory*, 1 July 2021.
    - Open letter, “[Historians Rally vs. ‘Genocide’ Myth](#),” *The Dorchester Review*, 12 August 2021.
    - Steven High, “Contesting Clio’s Craft: Activists, True Professionals and the Debate Over Genocide Recognition in Canada,” *Canadian Issues*, Spring/Summer 2022, 7-11.
  
- 25. Week of 30 Mar      **A Large & Lovelier Canada? The 2000s**
  - Lecture reading: *Destinies*, ch. 19
  - Tutorial:
    - Exam review
  
- 26. Week of 6 Apr      **TBA**

### **Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History’s [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.