

## **HISTORY OF CANADA SINCE 1867**

**HIST 132, AO1 2009**  
**Monday and Thursday, 1:00-2:20PM**  
**Cornett A120**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Benjamin Isitt  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an introductory history of Canada since Confederation, combining “big picture” political and economic trends with the methods of social history and “history from the bottom up.” I will highlight the experience of diverse historical actors: working people, women, immigrants, and indigenous people. Key events and themes include the consolidation of Confederation in the years after 1867; the Riel Rebellions of 1869 and 1885; industrialism and working-class protest; immigration and urban settlement; the First World War and postwar labour and farmer revolts; social-welfare policy and the Depression of the 1930s; the Second World War and Keynesian welfare state; the Cold War and “Sixties” social movements; Quebec’s “Quiet Revolution”; and the impact of globalization and neoliberalism in recent Canadian history.

I will draw from rich source material and contemporary films to help you engage the subject matter in creative ways, reaching the following Learning Outcomes by the end of the course:

- Understand the major forces and actors shaping Canada’s history since Confederation
- Access, analyze and synthesize sources into a coherent research paper
- Critically engage secondary sources and share your views with colleagues
- Apply course themes to real-world events and diverse historical moments.

### **TEXTBOOK AND READINGS:**

You are required to purchase one (1) textbook for this course and read relevant sections in preparation for each scheduled class:

Margaret Conrad and Alvin Finkel. *History of the Canadian Peoples: 1867 to the Present: Vol 2.* 5th Edition. Pearson Education Canada, 2009.

Tutorial discussions will take place four (4) times during the semester. In preparation for each tutorial, please read the assigned journal articles and prepare two (2) written questions relating to each article. While reading, ask yourself: *What is the author’s main argument(s)? How do I agree/disagree? From what perspective(s) does the author approach the topic?* Tutorial readings will be available on 2-hour reserve in the library and in the History Department Reading Room. Please return all readings in a timely manner so they are available for other students.

**EVALUATION:** I will evaluate you based on:

Participation: 20%  
Mid-Term Test: 20%  
Research Paper: 30%  
Final Exam: 30%

**Participation:**

I expect you to attend each scheduled class. Please provide a doctor's note in case of medical or family emergency. Participation marks are based on attendance and active listening (10%) and familiarity with readings as demonstrated in tutorials and your prepared questions (10%).

**Mid-Term Test**

***Due: Thursday, February 12***

The mid-term test will combine short answer and mini-essay questions based on material from the first half of the course. Lectures, textbook chapters, tutorial readings, and films should be considered when studying for the test.

**Research Essay  
(8-10 pages)**

***Select Topic: Monday, January 19  
Essay Due: Monday, March 16***

Explore **an event** in Canadian history since 1867 **through the pages of a newspaper**. Newspapers can be accessed on microfilm in the basement of the UVic library. Secondary sources (journal articles, books) should provide context to this primary-source research and situate your topic within the historiography. The purpose of this assignment is to do “detective work” – go through old newspapers on microfilm to construct a narrative that tells your story.

Select a research topic by **Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** and email it to me. I am happy to meet with you before this date to discuss possible essay topics.

**Final Exam**

***Date To Be Announced***

The final exam will be a 3-hour, closed book exam scheduled by the university. Your answers should incorporate material from lectures, the textbook, tutorial readings, discussions, and films.

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**STYLE & SOURCES:** Your Research Essay should conform with the History Department Style Guide < <http://web.uvic.ca/history/files/styleguide.pdf> >. All work should be double-spaced in 12-point font. Quotations and facts should be referenced with Footnotes. All works cited should be listed in a Bibliography at the end of the essay. Internet sources are for guidance only, and cited material should be based on printed sources only (books, academic journals, newspaper articles, and other primary sources from the UVic Library or BC Archives).

**ACADEMIC ETHICS & PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is presenting another person's work as your own. Quoting from sources without proper footnotes is a form of plagiarism, which may result in disciplinary action by the instructor and/or the University. If you have questions about how to cite your sources properly, and avoid plagiarism, please ask. Also consult the History Department Style Guide and the detailed History Department policy at the end of this syllabus.

**SUPPORT:** If you need help succeeding in this course, please let me know. Resources include the Writing Centre in the library, counseling services, and services for people with special needs.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

5 January: **Introduction**

8 January: **“Nation Building” and the Rebellions of 1869 and 1885**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, pages 2-33.

12 January: **Library & Writing Workshop**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, pages 36-53.

**WORKSHOP: Computer Lab BEC160**

15 January: **TUTORIAL: The Riel Rebellions of 1869 and 1885**

Doug Owrarn, “The Myth of Louis Riel,” *Canadian Historical Review* 63, no. 3 (September 1982): 315-336.

Gerald Friesen, “Prairie Indians, 1840-1900: The End of Autonomy,” in *The Canadian Prairies: A History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984): 129-161.

19 January: **Industrial Revolution and Social Reform**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 76-93; 117-134

**ESSAY TOPIC DUE**

22 January: **Immigration and Urbanization**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, pages 56-73 and 97-113

26 January: **Canada and the First World War**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 162-182.

29 January: **TUTORIAL: 1919: The Canadian Labour Revolt**

Gregory S. Kealey, “1919: The Canadian Labour Revolt,” *Labour/Le Travail* 13 (Spring 1984): 11-44.

Benjamin Isitt, “Searching for Workers’ Solidarity: The One Big Union and the Victoria General Strike of 1919,” *Labour/Le Travail* 60 (Fall 2007): 1-33.

2 February: **The “Not-So-Roaring Twenties”**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 186-203

5 February: **The Great Depression**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 206-226; 229-243

Film: “Tommy Douglas: Keeper of the Flame”

9 February: **Mid-Term Review**

12 February: **Mid-Term Test**

**MID-TERM TEST**

16 February & 19 February: **READING BREAK (no classes)**

23 February: **Canada and the Second World War**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 265-288

26 February: **The Postwar Settlement in Labour Relations**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 292-312; 336-353

2 March: **Cold War Canada**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 315-333

Film: “The Un-Canadians”

5 March: **TUTORIAL: Postwar Society**

Veronica Strong-Boag, “Home Dreams: Women and the Suburban Experience in Canada, 1945-1960,” *Canadian Historical Review*, 72, no. 4 (1991): 471-504.

Chris Dummit, “Finding a Place for Father: Selling the Barbeque in Postwar Canada,” *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 9, no. 1 (1998): 209-223.

9 March: **Quebec’s “Quiet Revolution”**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 376-389

Film: TBA

12 March: **Equality Struggles and Human Rights in Postwar Canada**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 356-373

16 March: **Film: “Remember Africville”**

**RESEARCH ESSAY DUE**

19 March: **TUTORIAL: Liberation Movements**

“Manifesto for an Independent Socialist Canada” (“The Waffle Manifesto”) (hand-out)

James Harding. “The New Left in British Columbia.” In Dimitrios I. Roussopolous, ed. *The New Left in Canada* (Montreal: Black Rose, c1970): 17-40.

Pierre Vallières, “After the Trial” in *White Niggers of America* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1971), 258-278.

23 March: **Globalization and Neoliberalism**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 392-402

26 March: **The Politics of Uncertainty: 1970s to Today**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 404-421

30 March: **First Nations and the Environment**

*Read:* Conrad and Finkel, 423-440, 442-457

Film: TBA

2 April: **Course Review**

**FINAL EXAM will be scheduled by the University and announced in class**