



Department of History

HTST 200

Events and Ideas that Shook the World:
Ordinary Things, Extraordinary Histories
Fall, 2020

Instructor: Dr. J.L. Spangler

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Office Hours and Method: TBA (on D2L)

Course Delivery: Online

Originally Scheduled Class Time: MWF 10-10:50

Synchronous Class Time: Mondays, 10-10:50 (will also be recorded)

All times local to Calgary, AB.

Description

This is an introductory course designed specifically for non-majors.¹ This term it examines a series of historical turning points between about 1450 and the middle of the twentieth century by considering the history behind some (once) common items. Specifically, we'll be looking at the printed book (as produced by the European printing press), a cup of tea with sugar, a block of ice, and early fossil fuels (a lump of coal and a can of kerosene). Much of the world will be touched on at some point, but Europe and the Americas will be a central focus for this course.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course successful students should be able to:

- * Note links between some everyday objects and broader global histories
- * Explain some of the significant interpretative frameworks of modern world history
- * Assess secondary sources to identify argument, structure, evidence
- * Demonstrate improved critical thinking and analytical skills
- * Demonstrate improved listening and note-taking skills

Required Texts

All readings are delivered electronically through D2L (at no cost to students) and are listed in the class schedule below. Reading averages about 30 pages a week.

¹ History 200 cannot be counted toward the requirements of the history major or minor.

Content Delivery:

We will experiment with having a synchronous, **“live” lecture every Monday via Zoom** (if the tech. doesn’t hold up, then we’ll go to 100% asynchronous lecture delivery). Lectures that would normally be given on Wednesdays and Fridays will be pre-recorded and posted to D2L by class time, for **asynchronous viewing** to fit your schedule. Monday lectures will also be recorded so that if you have to miss one you can view it later. Monday lectures on Zoom will be scheduled through D2L (click on “Zoom” in the menu bar and go from there). The Wed. and Friday lectures will be posted directly to the “content” area of D2L (as will Monday’s, after the fact).

There are several film clips that are part of the course materials. You will be provided with links for those clips through D2L’s “Content” area and are responsible for watching them before the exam for that module.

The course is divided into **4 “modules”** centered on the four everyday objects with extraordinary histories (the printed book, a cup of tea with sugar, a block of ice, and early fossil fuels). While there is a bit of carry-over from one module to the next (and that carry-over will be clearly noted as we go along), these modules are separate entities for the most part (in other words, the course is not cumulative, except for a few themes that you’ll be directly made aware of).

Assessment

Assessment Method	Weight	Date
Module 1 Exam (the printed book)	15 %	Sept. 30
Module 2 Exam (cup of tea with sugar)	20 %	Oct. 28
Module 3 Exam (block of ice)	15 %	Nov. 18
Module 4 Exam (coal and kerosene)	20 %	TBD by Registrar
Reading Quizzes (9) lowest 2 scores dropped	20 %	See schedule below
Discussion Group Written Contributions	10 %	weekly

Explanation of Assessments

Exams: Each of the four modules of the course concludes with an exam on the days listed above. All exams will be delivered via D2L’s quiz function and will be comprised of 20-25 randomized multiple-choice questions drawn from a question bank. If these exams had been given in person, each would have been 35-40 minutes in length, but to account for possible technical challenges they will each be timed at **60 minutes**. Every exam will be available to be taken **over a 24-hour period**, from 10:00 a.m. on the day it is scheduled to 10:00 a.m. on the next day. Once the exam is opened during that period, the 60 minutes of the actual exam begins. Students are responsible for starting the exam early enough that the 24-hour period doesn’t end

before the 60 minute exam ends.

Note: “Multiple-choice” for this course also includes True/False questions, matching and the like (anything where one answers by selecting an item). Students will be introduced to the different types of questions used for this course during lectures.

Reading Quizzes: For most of the assigned readings there will be a very brief reading quiz, as listed in the schedule below, delivered through D2L’s quiz function. Like the exams, the quizzes will be available for a 24-hour period, from 10 a.m. on the scheduled day (always a Friday) to 10 a.m. the next day, and students will have 12 minutes total to complete each one. The quiz consists of 5 randomized multiple-choice questions drawn from a question bank. The lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped.

Discussion Group Contributions: Students are divided into random groups on D2L. Each Monday there will be a question posted to all group discussion boards by the instructor that students are to comment on briefly during that week (closing when the next week’s question is posted). Students are to post a comment to a minimum of 5 questions throughout the term, plus a self-introductory post, to get full credit for this assignment. Postings must be of reasonable quality (standards to be explained in lecture).

Your discussion group is also a peer resource. You can email the group with questions, comments, etc., and some groups may even wish to arrange to study “together”—it’s been known to happen, but is not required.

Note: If anything transpires in communication in these groups that bothers or concerns you, make the instructor aware of it. We do not tolerate bullying, harassment, cheating, or any other forms of inappropriate communication or behavior in History 200.

Missed Assessment Policy

Students are expected to take exams and reading quizzes on the days that they are scheduled. If illness or emergency should intervene, a make-up exam can be scheduled. Because the two lowest marks on the reading quizzes will be dropped, students are generally not offered make-ups of the quizzes except in particularly difficult and sustained circumstances.

Learning Technologies Requirements

The D2L site for this course is the main interface for all learning and assessment materials (D2L.ucalgary.ca). In order to successfully complete this course, you will need reliable access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone with a current web browser and/or appropriate apps, a webcam (built-in or external), a microphone and speaker (built-in or external), and a reliable internet connection.

Guidelines for Synchronous Sessions

For our “live” classes on Mondays, we will be using Zoom (a video conferencing program). These sessions will be scheduled via our D2L site, and you can access them by going to our site,

clicking on Zoom on the menu bar, and following the relevant link. It is not permitted to share Zoom links or passwords with people who are not in the course, or to share materials presented in Zoom beyond our course without the instructor's permission. The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit:
<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

During Zoom sessions please remain muted and use the “chat” function to ask questions or comment. The chat button is on the bottom of the screen. You are not required to have your camera on during synchronous sessions.

Schedule

Week	Topic & Reading	Assignments/ Dates
Sept 8-11	Introduction and Module 1: The Printed Book Reading: Robert B. Marks, <i>The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Environmental Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century</i> (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015), 19-40 and endnotes.	No reading Quiz on Marks
Sept 14 – 18	Module 1: The Printed Book Reading: Johanna Drucker, <i>History of the Book Coursebook</i> , Chapter 5, (https://hob.gseis.ucla.edu/HoBCoursebook_Ch_5.html)	Reading Quiz 1 (on Drucker) Friday
Sept 21–25	Module 1: The Printed Book Reading: abridged version of Jeremiah Dittmar, “Information Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of the Printing Press,” <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 126:3 (2011).	Reading Quiz 2 (on Dittmar), Friday
Sept. 28- Oct 2	Module 2: A Cup of Tea with Sugar Reading: None	Midterm Exam on Module 1 Wed., Sept. 30.
Oct 5-9	Module 2: Cup of Tea with Sugar Readings: Hoh and Mair, <i>A True History of Tea</i> , Chapter 13.	Reading Quiz 3 (on Hoh and Mair), Friday
Oct 13-16	Module 2: Cup of Tea with Sugar Oct. 12, Thanksgiving Day: No Class Reading: Andrew B. Liu, “The Birth of the Noble Tea Country: On the Geography of Colonial Capital and the Origins of Indian Tea,” <i>Journal of Historical Sociology</i> 23:1 (2010): 73-100.	Reading Quiz 4, on Liu, Friday
Oct 19-23	Module 2: Cup of Tea with Sugar	Reading Quiz 5 (on

	Reading: Elizabeth Abbott , <i>Sugar: A Bittersweet History</i> (Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2008), 77-120.	Abbott), Friday
Oct 26-30	Module 3: Commercial Ice Reading: Jonathan Rees , <i>Refrigeration Nation: A History of Ice, Appliances, and Enterprise in America</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013), 11-30 (and endnotes)	Midterm Exam on Module 2 Wednesday, Oct 28 No reading quiz on Rees
Nov 2-6	Module 3: Commercial Ice Readings: Susan Freidberg , <i>Fresh: A Perishable History</i> (Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2009), 18- 48.	Reading Quiz 6 (on Freidberg), Friday
Nov 9-13	Reading Week – No Classes	
Nov 16-20	Module 4: Fossil Fuels Readings: Vaclav Smil , “World History and Energy,” in <i>Encyclopedia of Energy</i> (2004): 6: 549-557; Jaak J.K. Daemen , “History of [the] Coal Industry,” in <i>Concise Encyclopedia of the History of Energy</i> (2009): 1-9.	Midterm Exam, Module 3, Wednesday, Nov 18. Reading Quiz 7 (on Smil, only), Friday (no quiz on Daemen)
Nov 23-27	Module 4: Fossil Fuels Readings: Brian C. Black , <i>Crude Reality: Petroleum in World History</i> (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2012), 19-42.	Reading Quiz 8 (on Black), Friday
Nov 30-Dec 4	Module 4: Fossil Fuels Readings: Katayoun Shafiee, <i>Machineries of Oil: An Infrastructural History of BP in Iran</i> (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2018) selections from Ch. 1.	Reading quiz 9 (on Shafiee), Friday
Dec 7-9	Module 4: Fossil Fuels, Conclusion Readings: None.	

Exam on Module 4 to be scheduled by Registrar’s Office, December 12-23.

Class Policies

In online classes it may initially be unclear where the ethical lines are, so I will be explicit here. You are welcome to discuss materials and prepare for exams and quizzes with others. All exams and quizzes are open book. However, the quizzes and exams themselves **are to be completed by each individual student, working alone and not communicating** with others in any way. The questions are not to be photographed or otherwise shared with anyone, inside or outside of the class. Lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor. They are not to be appropriated or distributed by students.

Please be aware that once an exam or quiz on D2L has been started there is no way to pause it (just like in real life!), so students should get situated in a quiet space with the relevant readings etc. available before launching them.

In the unlikely event that you run into a glitch that freezes the quiz or exam, immediately take a screen shot that includes the time and close down. Try to re-enter after closing down to complete it, but if that doesn't work, email your screenshot to the instructor right away so that we can investigate and (probably) reset (we have data on when and how quizzes are accessed by each student). Do this even if it's 3 in the morning. It's your proof that things went wrong.

History 200 Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used only in History 200. Please note, it is different from the standard grading system used by the History Department.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
95-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
90-94	A	4.00	Excellent performance
85-89	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
80-84	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
75-79	B	3.00	Good performance
70-74	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
65-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
60-64	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
55-59	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
53-54	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-52	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC). For information on how to reach the ASC team please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>
- For Enrolment Services advising (such as admissions, student awards, course registration support, financial aid and student fees) or registration issues, contact the Office of the Registrar. For information on how to reach their team please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/contact-us/enrolment-services-advising>
- For information on Registration Changes and Exemption Requests please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

Academic Accommodations:

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

Sexual Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Please see *The History Student's Handbook*, <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/history/current-students/undergraduate/student-handbook>.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar, Section K: Integrity and Conduct*, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Other Useful Information:

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Campus Security and Safewalk (220-5333)

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