



Department of History HTST 200

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

Instructor: Dr. J.L. Spangler

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Office Hours: TBA (on D2L)

Class Time: 10:00-10:50 MWF

Location: Science Theatre 140

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Bafumiki Mocheregwa, SS 637; bafumiki.mochereg1@ucalgary.ca

Course 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 printing press, a cup of tea with sugar, commercial ice, a lump of coal and a can of kerosene (the first fossil fuels to have a sustained impact). Much of the world will be touched on at some point, but Europe and the Americas will be the central focus for this course.

Course 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. Readings average 30 to 40 pages a week.

Evaluation:		
Assessment Method	Description	Weight
Midterm Exam 1	Covers assigned readings, lecture materials, and anything else we've used in the first unit of the course (such as film selections). The exam will be machine marked and will include various types of multiple-choice questions.* The primary aim of all exams is not to test retention of minor details, but to get to the more significant themes of the unit. Exam will be 30 minutes and include 20-25 questions.	20%
Midterm Exam 2	Covers assigned readings, lecture materials, and anything else we've used in the second unit of the course. The exam will be machine marked and will include various types of multiple-choice questions.* Exam will be 30 minutes and include 20-25 questions.	26%
Reading Quizzes (four)	The four reading quizzes (open book) are intended to test students' grasp of the readings' main points, concepts, argumentation, and significant evidence. Each quiz consists of approximately 10 multiple-choice questions* about the assigned readings for that unit. They are self-administered on D2L and time-limited (15 minutes). Each quiz will remain available for about 5 days, as listed in the schedule below and can be completed <u>twice</u> , with the highest mark standing. Be aware that the system automatically scrambles the order of questions and answers each time a quiz is launched. Please note: Once a quiz has been started there is no way to pause it, so students should get situated in a quiet space with the relevant readings available before launching a quiz. Students are asked to complete the actual quizzes on their own. The class is on the honour system for this.	24% (6% each)
Final Exam	Covers assigned readings, lecture materials, and anything else we've used in the third and fourth units of the course. The exam will be machine marked and will include various types of multiple-choice questions.* Exam will be scheduled by the registrar and will be 2 hours in length (45-50 questions).	30%

* Multiple-choice also includes True/False questions, matching and the like. Students will be introduced to the different types of questions used for this course during class time.

Please note: Exams are cumulative in the sense that some themes from one unit will still be relevant and overtly discussed in the next. Those themes can then be tested on exams and it is assumed that info about them given earlier is still in play. The **Marks** reading is relevant to all four units of the course.

Assistance:

If you have questions or concerns, or want to discuss elements of the course, there are several options available to you.

- email the instructor
- drop in to instructor's office hours. No need to make an appointment during scheduled hours, but outside of them an appointment is necessary (just email to request one).
- email the teaching assistant and/or set up an appointment time with them.
- attend scheduled review sessions before exams.
- contact your go-to group (see below).

Go-To Groups

While there is no official group work in this course, you will be assigned to a group via D2L with 10-20 other students. It's meant to provide you with a place to ask fellow students for clarification and assistance and to provide such assistance for a small subset of the class. If, for example, you need lecture notes for a missed class, didn't understand part of a lecture, or aren't sure about what the midterm will cover, this small group might be easier to ask than the whole class. Some groups may find that they want to try to study together, to pool notes, etc. That's absolutely fine. Just be sure to sit separately at exams and do solitary work then.

Please note: If anything transpires in communication in these go-to groups that bothers you, don't hesitate to make the instructor aware of it. We will not tolerate bullying and other forms of inappropriate communication or behavior in History 200.

Class schedule:

Date	Topic & Reading	Assignments/Due Dates
January 13-17	Introduction and Unit 1, Part 1: The Printing Press Reading: Selection from 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.	
January 20-24	Unit 1, Part 2: The Printing Press Reading: Johanna Drucker , <i>History of the Book Coursebook</i> , Chapter 5, (https://hob.gseis.ucla.edu/HoBCoursebook_Ch_5.html); and 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).	
January 27-31	Unit 1, Part 3: The Printing Press Reading: Drucker , <i>History of the Book Coursebook</i> , Chapter 6.	Reading Quiz 1 opens Jan. 28, 8:00 a.m., closes Feb. 1 at 11:00 p.m.
February 3-7	Unit 2, Part 1: A Cup of Tea with Sugar Reading: Erica Rappaport , <i>A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World</i> (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017), 23-56.	Midterm Exam 1 Monday, Feb 3.
February 10-14	Unit 2, Part 2: Cup of Tea with Sugar Readings: 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.	
February 17-21	Reading Week: No Classes!	
February 24-28	Unit 2, Part 3: Cup of Tea with Sugar Reading: begin Elizabeth Abbott , <i>Sugar: A Bittersweet History</i> (Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2008), 77-120.	
March 2-6	Unit 2, Part 3: Cup of Tea with Sugar Finish the Abbott reading.	Reading Quiz 2 opens Mar. 3 at 8:00 a.m. and closes Mar 7 at 11:00 p.m.
March 9-13	Unit 3, Part 1: 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 2 Monday, March 9
March 16-20	Unit 3, Part 2: Commercial Ice Readings: Susan Freidberg , <i>Fresh: A Perishable History</i> (Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2009), 18-48.	
March 23-27	Unit 3, Concluded and Unit 4, Part 1: Fossil Fuels Readings: Vaclav Smil , <i>Energy: A Beginner’s Guide</i>	Reading Quiz 3 Open March 23, 8:00

	(Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2006), 85-106.	a.m. to March 28, 11:00 p.m.
March 30- April 3	Unit 4, Part 2: Fossil Fuels Readings: Brian C. Black , <i>Crude Reality: Petroleum in World History</i> (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2012), 19-42.	
April 6-10	Unit 4, Part 3: Fossil Fuels Readings: Roger Howard , "Britain, Persia and Petroleum," <i>History Today</i> 58:5 (2008): 44-50.	Reading Quiz 4 Open April 9 8:00 a.m. to April 15, 11:00 p.m.
April 13- 15	Unit 4, Part 4: Fossil Fuels No assigned readings this week.	

Final Exam to be scheduled by Registrar between April 18 and April 29.

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

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
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) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Tower Room 116, call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- **Attention history majors:** History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

D2L: Throughout the course, important material such as lecture outlines and study guides will be regularly posted on D2L. Students are advised to check this regularly.

Academic Misconduct:

For details of the U of C academic misconduct policy visit [Section K](#) of the Calendar and particularly <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Academic Accommodations:

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

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.

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

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. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Other Useful Information:

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

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
- Safewalk

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