

University of Calgary, Department of History, Fall 2019

Lecturer: Dr Alexander Hill	Class Time: MWF 12:00-12:50
Telephone: (Hill) 220 6419; or Main Office 220 6401	Location: SS113
Office: Social Sciences 620	Office Hours: TBC
Email: hilla@ucalgary.ca	TA: TBC

HTST300 – The Practice of History

Lectures

This course provides a methodological foundation for students studying History and also for those using historical sources and methods in other disciplines. As might be expected, the focus of the course is very much on the different types of historical sources available to historians and their use (and abuse) by historians and others over time!

Assessment

Assessment takes the form of an academic book review with book proposal, primary source analysis with source proposal, two multiple-choice quizzes and a library exercise for bonus marks.

Reading

The course textbook (required) is:

John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History: aims, methods and new directions in the study of history* (London and New York: Routledge, 2015).

Required reading from the textbook is listed in the class outline below.

Class Outline

Week 1 - Friday 6 September: **Introduction**

Please bring a printout of the course outline to the first class.

Week 2 – week of Monday 9 September: **Historical Awareness (Tosh, Chapter 1) and The Uses (and Abuses) of History (Tosh, Chapter 2)**

Week 3 – week of Monday 16 September: **The History of History**

Week 4 – week of Monday 23 September: **History, Social Theory and Other Academic Disciplines (Tosh Chapters 7, 8, 9)**

Week 5 – week of Monday 30 September: **The Raw Materials – An Introduction to Historical Sources (Friday 4 October - ‘MID-CLASS’ QUIZ)**

Week 6 – week of Monday 7 October: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 1 (For weeks 6-10, Tosh, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 11)**

Week 7 – week of Monday 14 October: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 2**

Week 8 – week of Monday 21 October: A week in the TFDL - **Using Libraries and Archives** – including lectures on using both libraries and archives by library staff. **(LIBRARY EXERCISE)** These sessions will be run by the History liaison librarian Nadine Hoffman (nhoffman@ucalgary.ca) and archivist Christena McKillop.

Week 9 – week of Monday 28 October: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 3**

Week 10 – week of Monday 4 November: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 4**

Week 11 – week of Monday 11 November: **READING WEEK**

Week 12 – week of Monday 18 November: **Mapping the Field – Different Types of History (For weeks 12-13, Tosh, Chapters 3 and 10 – you might also like to take a first look at Chapter 12)**

Week 13 – week of Monday 25 November: **Mapping the Field – Different Types of History 2**

Week 14 – week of Monday 2 December: **Using History (Tosh, Chapter 12) and Conclusion (Friday 6 December - FINAL QUIZ IN CLASS)**

Please note that the above lecture outline is provisional and may be subject to modification. An archival visit may be planned during the week of Monday 28 October, date tbd. Subsequent work in the archives concerned may provide the primary source for the primary source analysis.

Assessment:

Mid-class quiz	Friday 4 October	30 multiple-choice questions on material covered from the beginning of the semester. Questions may relate to either lecture material or required reading from the textbook.	10% of final mark
Library exercise	In class on either Wednesday 23 or Friday 25 October (depending on group)	A primary source worksheet will be provided on the day.	5% bonus mark
End-of-class quiz	In class on Friday 6 December	30 multiple-choice questions on material covered since the mid-class quiz. Questions may relate to either lecture material or required reading from the textbook.	10% of final mark
Primary source analysis	Due in the red box outside the History Department office by 13:00 p.m. on Friday 8 November	You will select a primary source and provide details of it on the form provided.	15% of final mark
	Due in the red box outside the History Department office by 13:00 on Wednesday 27 November	You will analyse the primary source agreed upon with the course leader using a template provided.	25% of final mark
Book review	Due in the red box outside the History Department office by 13:00 p.m. on Friday 1 November	Book selection – a recent historical monograph (published 2014 or later) with referenced sources. Selection to be submitted on the form provided.	15% of final mark
	Due in the red box outside the History Department office by 13:00 p.m. on Friday 6 December	You will provide a review of the above book in the style of a review for an academic journal.	25% of final mark

In order to pass the course you must complete BOTH the book review and source analysis.

A flat 10% of the mark will be deducted for exceeding the word limit on a piece of written work by more than 5% of the word limit, and you will not gain credit for that material beyond the word limit.

A flat 10% will be deducted for every week or part thereof during which a piece of written work is overdue without prior agreement with the lecturer or due cause (as documented according to university requirements).

Work submitted after Friday 6 December will not be accepted and a mark of 0 recorded for that piece of work unless the necessary documentation explaining extenuating circumstances that is satisfactory to the university is provided. Failure to take a quiz will result in a score of 0 for the test without due documentation.

Primary source analysis:

For the analysis you will analyse a primary source that has been agreed upon with the course leader through the form provided. Your analysis will be provided on a template made available by the course leader, that asks a series of questions about the nature of the source and other sources that might be valuable in conjunction with the chosen source (for example as corroboration). Specific marks will be available for each question/section as indicated on the template, as well as for the quality of your writing (including spelling, grammar and syntax).

Book review:

You will identify your book for review on the form provided by the course leader.

Prior to writing your book review you should look at examples of reviews in academic journals both for style and content. The *Historical Abstracts* search engine may be a good starting point for finding book reviews. Your book choice must be agreed with the course leader as part of the relevant piece of assessment submitted on the form provided.

Although you have some flexibility in the style in which you write your review, your review will be graded according to the following in the order of priority below:

- 1) The extent to which you show evidence of having read and understood the book under review and assess the strength of the argument(s) within it in the light of the sources on which it is based.
- 2) Your ability to express sustainable criticism of the book (where criticism should be both positive and negative).
- 3) The quality of your writing (including spelling, grammar and syntax).
- 4) Whether you have produced a book review in a style acceptable for publication in an academic History journal.

Grading:

All work will be graded using the percentages corresponding to letter grades as in the departmental grading scheme attached.

The final grade will be calculated from the percentage marks for each piece of work and not the letter grades for individual components.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the course, students should:

- *Have gained a critical appreciation for how and why history has been divided up into periods/epochs by historians and other theorists over time
- *Have a basic understanding of key historical processes identified by historians and theorists
- *Have gained an understanding of the manner in which the past has been analysed, presented and transmitted over time by different cultures at different times in human history
- *Be familiar with, able to distinguish between, and be critical towards a range of primary and secondary source materials used by historians in understanding the past
- *Have a basic understanding of key electronic and other finding aids for and repositories of historical knowledge available to historians in their research
- *Be able to show their understanding and appreciation the value of particular primary sources in a systematic and coherent manner in written form
- *Be able to cite historical sources in their own work using a recognized method for referencing/citation

Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- **Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.**
- 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 Library Block (MLB), call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- Registration changes and exemption requests:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Writing:

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly referenced.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be dropped into the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name, and 4) your student number.** Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* <https://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history-students-handbook-2019.pdf>

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works
- Using notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own

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

Copyright:

Instructors in all University of Calgary courses strictly adhere to the Copyright Act regulations and 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, you may be required 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>.

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

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.

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