

Historical Studies 341 MWF 9:00 – 9:50
Winter Term 2016

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HISTORY OF POPULAR CULTURE IN CANADA 1850 TO THE PRESENT

The purpose of this course is to explore popular culture in Canadian society from the 1850s –the beginning of railways and the dawning of the urban-industrial revolution– to the recent past. “Popular culture” is a very elusive and difficult to define concept

Precision about what “popular culture” entails is difficult. For example, popular culture includes obvious things, such as popular literature, theatre, fairs, folk tales, music, radio, film and sports. It also includes rituals and rites of passage, such as courtship, weddings, and funerals. The celebration of holidays and commemoration of events are also integral to the popular culture of any society. Popular culture includes things that are private, such as hobbies, what people collect or buy, certain aspects of life in the home and how they spend their holidays. These cultural activities are not merely diversions, ways to occupy leisure time or forms of entertainment. They articulate or reflect people’s underlying values, beliefs and aspirations.

Popular culture is contested terrain. Within any society there is conflict over popular culture, and especially what cultural activities and forms of expression are appropriate, and meaningful. There are important differences in popular culture depending on ethnicity, age or generational experience, class, gender, and in Canada, geography or region. It is also important to note that “popular” does not necessarily denote or indicate most people or a majority. It can signify something that is prevalent or considered important and meaningful by a distinctive minority. Popularity cannot be easily quantified.

There are three important participants in the field of popular culture: 1) the *creators* (for example, musicians, circus performers, athletes, actors, writers); 2) the *suppliers* or the *producers* (for example, media organizations, entertainment promoters, owners of institutions of culture, such as sports arenas, media outlets etc.; and finally, 3) the *consumers* of culture, the audience. There is fierce debate in scholarly literature about these different participants in popular culture. What is the role of the producers of culture? To what extent do those who own the “means of production” –the mass media, for example– control popular culture? What role does the audience play in shaping popular culture? Rather than regarding popular culture as being controlled and shaped by media outlets and other owners of the means of cultural production, which the audience

mindlessly consumes, this course will explore the important role the *audience or consumers* play in shaping and giving meaning to popular culture. To understand popular culture, historians must be alive to the complex interplay or negotiation between the *creator, producer* and *audience*, for none of these players or participants have absolute control or *hegemony*. Rather popular culture is a “site of struggle” or “terrain of negotiation” between these different constituencies. Popular culture is neither imposed from above nor spontaneously generated or created by the people.

Textbook

Vance, Jonathan, A History of Canadian Culture (Oxford University Press, pb)

Assignments:

*Artefact Review #1, 1850-1919	Due: Monday Feb. 22 nd 2016	30%
*Artefact Review #2, 1920- ...	Due: Monday April 4 th 2016	30%
**Final Examination	(to be scheduled by the registrar)	40%

***ARTEFACT REVIEWS**

Each of the artefact reviews should be approximately 5-7 pp. (including notes and bibliography) or about 1200 words –typed in 12-point pitch and double-spaced. These reviews are to take the form of a formal History essay. They must conform to the guidelines set out in the Department of History Guide to Essay Preparation, especially in relation to the citation of sources and footnote or endnote style.

A full description of the requirements for the Artefact reviews is on the Desire2Learn page for History 341.

**** FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final examination will be based on the lecture material, including the visual images, the films and music played in class as well as the readings from the textbook. The format will be essay style. The questions will be on the major themes or issues explored throughout the course.

Students will be required to answer TWO questions, one from Part covering the period 1850-1919 and one from Part B covering the period 1920-2015. Students will have choice, as there will be five or six questions in both Part A and Part B.

Lecture Topics and Readings (Required readings are in brackets and in bold)

Week #1 (Vance, Chapters 1-3)

- Folk Culture in Pre-Industrial Canada
- “The Cult of Winter”

Week #2 (Vance, Chapters 4-5)

- Cult of Respectability I: From Rough Games to Organized Sport
- Cult of Respectability II: Theatre
- Daily Newspapers as a Cultural Institution

Week #3 (Vance, Chapters 6-7)

- Consumerism & the Rise of the Department Store
- The Victorian Home: Etiquette & Cookbooks
- The Fad of Photography in the Victorian Age

Week #4

- Nature, Spas & Tourism
- Fitness, Health & the Body
- Bicycle, Courtship & Fashion

Week #5 (Vance, Chapters 8-9)

- Muscular Christianity & “Ralph Connor”/Lucy Maude Montgomery and the Flight From Pious Sunday School Literature
- Making Fun of Victorian Conventions and Life in Canada: Stephen Leacock and the Canadian Style of Humour
- Children’s Literature and Popular Environmentalism: E. Thompson Seton

Week #6 (Vance, Chapter 10)

- Monuments, Public Celebrations & Popular Imperialism
- Billy Bishop: The Necessary Wartime Hero
- Commemorating Loss and Sacrifice

READING WEEK

Week #7 (Vance, Chapter 11-12)

- Film: Dreamland Pt. I
- Film: Dreamland Pt.II
- A New National Spirit: A Canadian Vision –Group of Seven & Emily Carr

Week #8

- Language, the Canadian Authors Association and Literary Modernism in Canada
- 1927: Canada's Diamond Jubilee & The Beginnings of Radio
- C.B.C. Radio as a National Institution: 1935 Mining Disaster & 1939 Royal Tour

Week #9 (Vance Chapter 13)

- WW II & the National Film Board
- “The Golden Age” of C.B.C. Radio
- Royal Commission on the National Development of the Arts, Letters and Sciences

Week #10 (Vance Chapter 13, 14 & 15)

- The Dilemma of the Canadian Artist & the New Canadian Library
- Impact of the Massey Commission
- Hockey as a Form of (French) Canadian Nationalism: The Richard Riots of 1955

Week #11

- Culture of Consumption and Conformity, Living in the Suburbs & the Rise of the “Teen Aged Culture”
- Revolt Against Suburbia: Folk Art & Music as Expressions Protest in the 1960s
- Heritage, Tourism & Celebrating Canada's Centennial in 1967

Week #12 (Vance, Chapter 16)

- Canadian Television in the 1950s & 1960s “The Friendly Giant” to “Adventures in Rainbow Country”
- Struggling for the Airwaves & Movie Screens
- Popular Forms of Canadian Nationalism

Week #13

- Canadian Sound: Legislating Canadian Content
- Popular Multi-Culturalism, “The King of Kensington” to “Little Mosque on the Prairie”

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Need help coming up with a thesis statement? Confused about the proper way to use footnotes? Just want to ask someone about your written assignment for this or any other history class? The Department of History offers small-group and individual writing support for all students registered in a History class from some of our top graduate students. Check with your instructor for the scheduled weekly drop-in times, sign-up for one of the writing workshops, or arrange to meet with our writing tutors individually. More information about this program will be posted on the Department of History web site: hist.ucalgary.ca.

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that 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. What this simply means is that 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 coursepack from the University of Calgary bookstore or

that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of 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 promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

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

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*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is 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 is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of 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 will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Other Useful Information:

Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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