

University of Calgary
Winter Term 2019
Historical Studies Htst 341
MWF 10:00 – 10:50

Instructor: Dr. David B. Marshall
Office: Social Sciences Building 638
OFFICE HOURS: WF 1:00 – 2:00 or by appointment
Tel: 220-3837
E-mail: marshall@ucalgary.ca

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Rebecca Ralph
Office: Social Sciences Building
E-mail: rebecca.ralph@ucalgary.ca

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.

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, and how people 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*. Popular culture is neither imposed from above nor spontaneously generated or created by the people. Rather popular culture is a “site of struggle” or “terrain of negotiation” between the many participants in cultural activity: the creators, producers and consumers.

Textbook

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

Assignments

Assignment	Length Double-spaced 12 point pitch	Date Due	% Final Grade
Cultural Artefact #1	4-5 pages 1,000-1,200 Words	Friday March 1 st 2019	30%
Cultural Artefact #2	4-5 page 1,000-1,200 Words	Monday April 1 st 2019	30%
Take-Home Final Exam	No More than 8 pages or 2,000 words N.B. See Instructions Below	Distributed: Friday April 12 th 2019 DUE Monday April 22 nd 2019	40%

*ARTEFACT REVIEWS

Each of the artefact reviews should be approximately 3-5 pp. (including notes and bibliography) or about 1,000 - 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. http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf

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

The examination will be a take-home exam. It will be distributed during the last day of classes on **Friday April 12th 2019**. It was also be posted on the Htst 341 page on D2L and e-mailed to all members of the class. Students will have until **Monday April 22nd 2019** to complete the examination. Examinations **MUST** be placed in the **RED BOX** outside the main office of the Department of History, Social Sciences Building, 656.

Each answer should be between 750- 1,000 words or 3-4 pages, double-spaced. In total, exams must not exceed 8 pages of 2,000 words.

Lecture Topics and Readings (Textbook readings are in brackets and in bold. The textbook readings do not overlap exactly with the lectures. The chapters suggested roughly approximate lecture material in terms of chronology and theme. By reading *A History of Canadian Culture* in conjunction with the lectures students will gain another perspective on the history of culture in Canada.)

Friday January 11th Course Introduction

Jan. 12th, 16th, 18th (Vance, Chapters 1-3)

- “The Cult of Winter”
- Cult of Respectability I: From Rough Games to Organized Sport
- Cult of Respectability II: Temperance and the Middle Class

Jan. 21st, 23rd, 25th (Vance, Chapters 4-5)

- Daily Newspapers as a Cultural Institution
- Consumerism & the Rise of the Department Store
- The Victorian Home: Etiquette, the Parlour & Home Entertainment

Jan. 28th, 30th, Feb. 1st (Vance, Chapters 6-7)

- The Fad of Photography in the Victorian Age
- Nature, Spas & Tourism
- Fitness, Health & the Body

Feb. 4th, 6th, 8th (Vance, Chapters 8-9)

- Bicycle, Courtship & Fashion
- Muscular Christianity & “Ralph Connor”
- Lucy Maude Montgomery and the Flight From Pious Sunday School Literature

Feb. 11th, 13th, 15th (Vance, Chapters 8-9)

- 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
- Pauline Johnson, Paddling Her Own Canoe”: Canada’s Indigenous Poetess

READING WEEK

Feb. 25th, 27th March 1st (Vance, Chapter 10)

- Monuments, Public Celebrations & Popular Heroes of the Imperial Age, 1885-1918
- Film: Dreamland Pt. I
- Film: Dreamland Pt.II/ Canada on the Hollywood Screen

March 4th, 6th, 8th (Vance, Chapters 10, 11-12)

- New National Spirit: A Canadian Vision, Group of Seven & Emily Carr
- New National Spirit: the Canadian Author's Association & Literary Modernism
- Mass Circulation Magazines and the Threat of Americanization

March 11th, 13th, 15th (Vance, Chapter 13)

- The Beginnings of Radio
- C.B.C. Radio as a National Institution
- Modern Media & the State During Wartime; The National Film Board

March 18th, 20th, 22nd (Vance, Chapter 14)

- “The Golden Age” of C.B.C. Radio
- The Dilemma of the Canadian Artist & Royal Commission on the National Development of the Arts, Letters and Sciences
- Impact of the Massey Commission: Flowering of Canadian Nationalism and CanLit

March 25th, 27th, 29th (Vance, Chapter 15)

- Hockey as a Form of (French) Canadian Nationalism: The Richard Riots of 1955
- Culture of Consumption and Conformity, Living in the Suburbs & the Rise of the “Teen Aged Culture”
- Revolt Against Suburbia: Folk Art & Music as Expressions of Protest in the 1960s

April 1st, 3rd, 5th

- Heritage, Tourism & Celebrating Canada's Centennial in 1967
- Aboriginal & Inuit Art as Canadian Art
- Canadian Television in the 1950s & 1960s: “Adventures in Rainbow Country”

April 8th, 10th, 12th (Vance, Chapter 16)

- Canadian Rock & Roll
- Legislating Canadian Content on the Airwaves
- Popular Multi-Culturalism, “The King of Kensington” to “Little Mosque on the Prairie” to “Kim's Convenience”

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

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

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, 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 (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

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:

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 (TFDL). 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 course pack 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 (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. 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	

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
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* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), 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 (USRI):

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction 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.

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 communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services 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 communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Campus Resources for Mental Health:

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

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.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- 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>
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

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