

History 521

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University of Calgary

Department of History

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## **Canadian Biography**

### THE COURSE

The purpose of this course is to explore the role of biography in the writing of Canadian history. In particular we will investigate the merits and drawbacks of the biographical approach to history and we will look at the different trends in biographical writing. The seminars are arranged chronologically so that the development of biographical writing in Canada from the Victorian period to the present day can be investigated. The movement away from strictly political biography to an approach in which the public and private lives are fully integrated will be highlighted. The chronological framework will allow us to investigate the influence of social and gender history on biographical writing.

In the course of these investigations we will be able to discuss numerous Canadian lives.

### TEXTBOOKS

Macmillan, Margaret, *History's People: Personalities and the Past* (Anansi Press, 2015) – available at the U of C TEXTBOOK STORE and widely available at bookstores

Dutil, Patrice & Roger Hall, eds., *Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies* (Dundurn Press, 2014) –available at the U OF C TEXTBOOK STORE and U of C Library as an e-book ONLINE.

Stacey, C.P., *A Very Double Life: The Private World of Mackenzie King* -available from the instructor in class

Bliss, Michael, *Banting: A Biography* (University of Toronto Press), 2<sup>nd</sup> pb edition –available at the U OF C TEXTBOOK STORE

Gray, Charlotte, *Flint and Feather: The Life and Times of Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake* (Harper Collins), pb –available at the U OF C TEXTBOOK STORE

Cook, Tim, *The Madman and the Butcher: The Sensational Wars of Sam Hughes and General Arthur Currie* (Penguin Canada), pb –available at the U OF C TEXTBOOK STORE

Bains, Tara Singh & Hugh Johnston, *The Four Quarters of the Night: The Life Journey of an Emigrant Sikh* (McGill Queen’s University Press), pb –available at the U OF C TEXTBOOK STORE and at the U OF C LIBRARY as an e-book, ON-LINE.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Seminar Participation .....20%**

**Seminar Presentation .....20% DUE: t.b.a.**

**Research Paper Proposal .....20% DUE: Mon. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**

**Research Paper .....40% DUE: Mon. April 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Written assignments may be submitted by hardcopy or electronically. The advantage of the latter is a faster turn-around and legible comments from the instructor.**

### SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND READINGS

**Week #1 Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> Organizational & Overview**

**Week #2 Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> The Individual in History/Biography as History/**

READING: Macmillan, Margaret, *History’s People: Personalities and the Past*

See also: Robert Craig Brown, *Biography in Canadian History*, Presidential Address to the Canadian Historical Association, Canadian Historical Association, Historical Papers, 1980

Wright, “Reflections on Donald Creighton and the Appeal of Biography”, Journal of Historical Biography, Vol. 1

P.B. Waite, “Journeys Through Thirteen Volumes: *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*”, Canadian Historical Review, Vol.76, No.3, Sept. 1995

Marshall, David B., "Exceptional Canadians: Biography in the Public Square", in Taras, David, & Christopher Wadell, eds., *How Canadians Communicate, Vol. IV Media and Politics*, Spring 2012, pp. 233-257

**Week #3 Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> Controversial Lives I: The Life and Political Career of John A. Macdonald**

READING: Dutil, Patrice & Roger Hall, eds., *Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies*

**See also:** Martin, Ged, "Archival Evidence and John A. Macdonald Biography", Journal of Historical Biography, Vol. 1.

**Week #4 Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> Breaking the Mold of Decorum & Respectability: Invading the Private**

READING: C.P. Stacey, *A Very Double Life: The Private World of Mackenzie King*

**Week #5 Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Biography, Social History & Exposing Scandal**

READING: Michael Bliss, *Banting: A Biography*

P.B. Waite, "Invading Privacies: Biography as History", Dalhousie Review, Vol.69, No.4, Winter 89/90.

**\*\*\*Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> READING WEEK NO CLASS**

**Week #6 Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> Biography and Gender/People on the Margins**

READING: Charlotte Gray, *Flint and Feather: The Life and Times of Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake*

See also: Cameron & Dickin eds., Great Dames

**Week #7 Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> Controversial Canadians II: Hughes, Currie and the First World War**

Cook, Tim, *The Madman and the Butcher: The Sensational Wars of Sam Hughes and General Arthur Currie*

**Week #8 March 7<sup>th</sup> Biography of “New Canadians”**

Bains, Tara Singh & Hugh Johnston, *The Four Quarters of the Night: The Life Journey of an Emigrant Sikh*

**Week #9 March 14<sup>th</sup> Biography, National Identity & the Public Square**

READING: one of the books from the Extraordinary Lives series.

Boyden, Andrew, *Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont*

Clarkson, Adrienne, *Norman Bethune*

Cohen, Andrew, *Lester Pearson*

Coupland, Aaron, *Marshall McLuhan*

Desots, Lewis, *Emily Carr*

Foran, Charles, *Maurice Richard*

Gray, Charlotte, *Nellie McClung*

Kingwell, Mark, *Glenn Gould*

Lam, Vincent, *Tommy Douglas*

Macmillan, Margaret, *Stephen Leacock*

Poliquin, Daniel, *Andre Levesque*

Pratte, Andre, *Wilfrid Laurier*

Ricci, Nino, *Pierre Elliott Trudeau*

Richards, David Adams, *Lord Beaverbrook*

Saul, John Ralston, *Louis LaFontaine and Robert Baldwin*

Urquhart, Jane, *Lucy Maude Montgomery*

Vassanji, M.J. *Mordecai Richler*

Wiebe, Rudy, *Big Bear*

**Week #10 March 21<sup>st</sup> PRESENTATIONS**

**Week #11 March 28<sup>th</sup> PRESENTATIONS**

**WEEK #12 April 4<sup>th</sup> PRESENTATIONS**

**WEEK 13 April 11<sup>th</sup> PRESENTATIONS**

## **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](mailto: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](http://hist.ucalgary.ca).

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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	

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*, 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](http://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/](http://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](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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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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