

Tentative Course Outline – Hist 1830 (530): The History of Death

General Information

Course #: History 1830
Section #: 530
Term: Winter
Year: 2023
Delivery: In-person
Course Day and Time: Thursday 11.30am-1.30pm
Course Location: UH-26

Instructor Information

Name: Prof. Wes Gustavson
E-mail: wgustav@uwo.ca
Office hours: Monday 1.30pm-2.30 pm (Beryl Ivey Library); Thurs 10:30-11:30 (Beryl Ivey Library);
Friday 11.30m-12.30pm (Beryl Ivey Library) and by appointment

Course Description

Death and taxes are said to be the only certainties in life, but most people know more about taxes than they do about death. Death has its own history, and the goal of this course is to examine the changing ideas, understanding, and practices surrounding death and dying. Along the way we'll investigate how the dead were treated, memorialized, and disposed of. Indeed, how past peoples understood death can tell us much of about their lives and the societies that they lived in.

Required Course Materials

All course materials will be available on OWL.

Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Think historically about death and dying and how perspectives have changed over time and recognize that the past may be interpreted from different perspectives.
2. Outline key concepts in the history of death and understand how this impacted the experience and the perceptions of death and dying.
3. Critically read, summarize, and analyze primary and secondary sources.
4. Connect death-related issues with their historical roots.

Brescia Competencies

This course will provide opportunities for students to develop skills leading to the attainment of [Brescia's Seven Competencies](#): Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Problem Solving; Self Awareness and Development; Social Awareness and Engagement; and Valuing.

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

Through readings and discussions, students will consider how attitudes and practices toward death and dying have changed over time.

The course website is at owl.uwo.ca. Log onto the site using your UWO username and password. The OWL site has the course syllabus, digitized versions of readings and documents, and other course materials. I will use OWL to make class announcements, so please check in at least once per week.

Students are encouraged to debate and discuss the course issues and themes in class and in forums, but please note that any discussions must be conducted within the grounds of appropriate behaviour. Tantrums, disregard for other contributors, and/or personal attacks will not be tolerated. In short, please respect the views of your fellow students.

Evaluation Breakdown

Component	Weight	Date/ Deadline	Learning Outcomes	Brescia Competencies
Written Assignment #1	25%	Due by 3 Feb 2023	1, 2, 4	Communication, Critical Thinking, Self-Awareness & Development
Written Assignment #2	25%	Due by 31 March 2023	1,2,3,4	Communication, Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving
Seminar Journal	25%	Due by 5 April 2023	1,2,3,4	Communication, Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving, Self-Awareness & Development, Social Awareness and Engagement Valuing
Participation	30%	N/A	1,2,4	Communication, Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving, Self-Awareness & Development, Social Awareness and Engagement, Valuing

Attendance Policy and Participation Grading

Students are expected to have fully read the assigned readings before class, and to contribute to the discussion in a thoughtful and critical way each week. Although attendance is mandatory, students

are marked on the quality of their contributions and not on their presence. Marks are not awarded for passive absorption. To have the best experience in a small seminar, each student must demonstrate understanding of the reading, extract the salient points or arguments, and verbally articulate these points by contributing to the discussion. Legitimate absences will be dealt with by re-weighting the term work grade accordingly.

Each Class is marked out of ten (10) and the marks are based on my evaluation of your participation. Here are some general guidelines I follow when assigning grades:

A student who receives an 8 or higher out of 10 is one who comes to class with insightful reflections about the readings in mind: this student will sometimes bring a list of question that they wish the class to discuss and is prepared to steer the class discussion one direction or another. The engage other students about ideas, ask questions about the material, and consistently elevate the level of discussion

A student who receives a 7 to 7.9/10 for participation does not always come to class with questions about the readings in mind and is from time to time not fully prepared. This student often waits passively for others to raise interesting or relevant issues. Some students, while respectful of others, do not listen attentively to other participants or relate their comments to the flow of the discussion.

A student who receives a 6 to 6.9/10 for participation speaks from time to time and reveals an adequate grasp of the material, though is rarely willing to contribute more than straightforward comments in response to direct lines of questioning.

A student who is not adequately prepared and/or rarely speaks about relevant matters risks receiving a grade of 5/10 or below. I reserve the right to give lower marks to attending students who arrive late without excuse, who are disruptive, etc.

Late Work Policy

- A penalty of five (5) marks will be assessed for assignments submitted the first day after the deadline.
- A penalty of one (1) mark will be assessed for each subsequent day, including weekends.
- No assignments will be accepted after the 7th day beyond the deadline, including weekends.
- Accommodations or extensions require documentation from an academic advisor.

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

Course Content

The following schedule provides an outline of the topics to be covered. A detailed course schedule with a full reading list and schedule will be available on the course OWL site.

Weekly Organizer:

Class/Week	Date	Description	Assignments and/or Readings Due
			Full Reading List available on OWL
Week 1	Jan 12	Introduction/How to Seminar/Reading for History	Reading List on OWL
Week 2	Jan 19	Historians and Death	Reading List on OWL
Week 3	Jan 26	Roman Spectacles of Death	Reading List on OWL
Week 4	Feb 2	Medieval Death	Reading List on OWL Short Assignment #1 due by 3 Feb
Week 5	Feb 9	The Reformation of Death	Reading List on OWL
Week 6	Feb 16	Bills of Mortality	Reading List on OWL
Week 7	Feb 18-26	Spring Reading Break – No Classes	
Week 8	March 2	Death & the Enlightenment/ <i>Cimetière des Innocents</i>	Reading List on OWL
Week 9	March 9	Victorian Way of Death/Death and Dissection	Reading List on OWL
Week 10	March 16	Cemeteries	Reading List on OWL
Week 11	March 23	Reburial and Repatriation	Reading List on OWL
Week 12	March 30	War Dead	Reading List on OWL Short Assignment #2 due by 31 March
Week 13	April 6	Summary and Review	Reading List on OWL Seminar Journal due by 5 April

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM

Statement on Course Changes

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery, course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Provost and by the course instructor.

Statement on Audio/Video or Streaming of Classes

If necessary, some or all of the classes for this course may be recorded and streamed. The data captured may include your image, voice recordings, and for online participants chat logs and

personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings or streaming. Participants in this course are not permitted to privately record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the student has the prior written permission of the instructor. No electronic devices are permitted during tests and examinations.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Brescia University College campus sits on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haundenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, connected through the London and Sombra Township Treaties, and to the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;

5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor (https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at: https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination,

submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be

appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
