



HISTORY 2168B: TACKLING NATURE: THE ENVIRONMENT IN CANADIAN HISTORY

COURSE OUTLINE (Winter 2023) - Dr. G. Warecki

Office Hours: Via Zoom. Please email me and we will arrange a mutually convenient time. gwarecki@uwo.ca

Class meets on Wednesdays 12:30-2:20 PM in Room UH (Ursuline Hall) 26 – it’s in the basement.

COVID Disclaimer:

This course is scheduled to meet in person. 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.

Antirequisites:

History 2123, History 2211E, and History 2296G (Winter 2009, Winter 2011, Winter 2023 at Brescia).

Course Description:

This course highlights the environment as an historical force. It examines changing relationships between people and other aspects of the natural world in what is now Canada, interpreted in an international context. By studying the connections between various historical actors – changing ideas, settlement patterns, resource use, political factors, societal change, and ecology – the course aims to introduce students to the complexity of environmental problems. Topics include Indigenous resource use, impacts of European colonization, attitudes toward nature, social conflicts over government policies affecting fish, forest, and wildlife, and the rise of environmental advocacy.

Assessments:

Tutorial Attendance / Participation	20%
Weekly Reading Responses.....	15%
Oral Presentation (based on 1 journal article).....	10%
Mid-Term Test (15 February 2023).....	25%
Final Exam (date TBA).....	30%
	100%

Required Texts:

There is one textbook that students must purchase: James Murton, *Canadians and Their Natural Environment: A History* (Oxford University Press, 2021). This book is available at the Western Bookstore.

Brescia Competencies

This course will enable students to attain various levels of the seven Brescia Competencies: Communication (level 2 or 3); Critical Thinking (level 2 or 3); Inquiry and Analysis (level 2 or 3); Problem Solving (level 2 or 3); Self-Awareness and Development (level 2 or 3); Social Awareness and Engagement (level 2 or 3); and Valuing (level 2 or 3).

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

The instructor uses a variety of methods to teach the course: lectures, workshops, audio-visual presentations, and tutorials (indicated in the schedule by **TUT**). The tutorials, usually during the second hour of classes, are discussions based on assigned readings. Students must complete the assigned reading **before** coming to class.

Participation in these tutorial sessions will be evaluated as part of the final course grade devoted to “class participation”. Passive attendance in these classes, without actively engaging the material, will yield the student a failing grade. Regular attendance, a dedication to completing the assigned readings, and a demonstrated willingness to participate actively in discussions will earn the student an “A” for this part of the course.

When students are unable to attend a class, they are expected to **contact the instructor**, preferably before the class to be missed. **If** there are **reasonable**, acceptable grounds for their absence – usually illness or grief – the professor will excuse the student without penalty. However, in fairness to all students, the instructor reserves the right to demand that the student submit documentation to the Academic Advisor in the Brescia Registrar’s Office to support the student’s claim. Moreover, **students will still be responsible for submitting a reading response for the missed tutorial** no later than two weeks after returning to classes.

Additional Notes Regarding Class Discussions:

- (a) **Students who miss four (4) or more tutorial discussions will receive zero (0%) for their attendance/ tutorial participation grade.***
- (b) **Upon entry into class, students must submit to the instructor a two-page (maximum) reading response based on the assigned readings for that week.****

Further information on grading methods will be given during classes and posted on OWL

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Demonstrate in writing an appreciation for bias, uncertainty, and ambiguity in history.
2. Demonstrate in discussions and in writing an understanding of historical agency, including one's own potential and limitations.
3. Analyse in writing the historical significance of various people, events, and forces by emphasizing continuity and change, contingency and context.
4. Communicate effectively using oral expression, in small and large groups.
5. Articulate personal values in class discussions of scholarly work, exploring the moral, ethical, and social justice aspects of historical events.
6. Lead other students by producing exemplary work of very high quality, both written and oral.
7. Demonstrate in writing and orally their comprehension and critical perspective on assigned readings
8. Demonstrate by writing a final exam a strong understanding of material covered in the second half of the course
9. Demonstrate an ability to identify and analyze the historical forces that have shaped environmental problems in Canada.

OWL and Student Obligations

The instructor will be maintaining a course website using UWO's new on-line learning network, OWL. **Students are required to engage the course material in several ways using this website.** Further detailed instructions about the site, and students' obligations, will be given during the first few weeks of classes.

Policy Regarding Late Assignments

- (a) A penalty of five (5) marks will be deducted for assignments submitted the first day after the deadline.
- (b) A penalty of one (1) mark will be assessed for each subsequent day including weekends.

(c) No assignments will be accepted after the 14th day unless on:

- (i) humanitarian grounds, or
- (ii) medical grounds for which documentation must be provided.

(d) A student who fails to submit all of the required written work, as specified in the course outline, will not receive credit for the course.

Courtesy and Use of Electronic Devices

Please ensure that all cellphones and other electronic devices are **turned off** prior to entering the classroom. As a courtesy to the instructor and other people in the class, please **do not talk privately** with classmates while others are presenting or discussing material, unless you are working in small groups. There may be occasions during class when the instructor asks students to check certain information online. However, the **use of laptop computers during class for personal activities** such as surfing the Web, reading/writing e-mail, visiting social network pages, or playing games is distracting to both the professor and other students, creates an obstacle for your own learning, and **will not be tolerated**. Even more distracting and disturbing is the practice of **texting during class time**. Students who engage in these activities **will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive a zero for that day's participation.**

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.

Class Schedule of Lectures and Readings (2023)

11 January: Introduction / Read Murton, "Introduction"

18 January: Extinctions / **TUT:** Murton, ch. 1: "Living in Deep Time"

25 January: Indigenous Resource Use / **TUT:** Murton, ch. 2: "The Turtle Island System"

1 February: The French Regime / **TUT:** Murton, ch. 3: "'Closing Up the Seams of Pangea:' Colonization and Its Consequences"

8 February: The Cod Fisheries: Origins to Early 20th Century /
TUT: Murton, ch. 4: "Agriculture and Environmental Change in the Wendat Confederacy, Acadia, and Canada"

15 February: **Mid-Term Test***

[22 February: NO CLASS – READING WEEK*]

1 March: **TUT:** Murton, ch. 5: “Markets, Science, and the Canadian Environment” /
VIDEO: *Visions from the Wilderness: The Art of Paul Kane* (2001) /
 Return Graded Tests

8 March: The Prairies, 1860s-1930 / **TUT:** Murton, ch. 6: “The Environment of Industry”

15 March: Wildlife Conservation, 1880-1920 / **TUT:** Murton, ch. 7: “The Conservation Era”

22 March: Prairies in the 1930s / **TUT:** Murton, ch. 8: “High Modernism and the Experience of Nature in Twentieth-Century Canada;”
AND ch. 9: “Living Through Chemistry: Toxins, Bodies, and Ecologies”

29 March: The Canadian Audubon Society / **TUT:** Murton, ch. 10: “Survival”

5 April: **LAST CLASS** - Final Exam Hints / The Atlantic Fishery, 1950s-90s /
TUT: Murton, ch. 11: “Sustainable Development?” **AND** ch. 12: “How Much Longer Can We Stand?”

FINAL EXAM: During the April Exam Period. DATE TBA

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 may be 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.
