

The University of Manitoba, Faculty of Arts, Regular Session: Winter Term 2017

General Information

Department: History

Course Title: Topics in History: Archives, Societal Memory, and the Uses of the Past

Course Number: HIST: 3110

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Web Site: <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/history/archives/index.html>

Office Hours: Wednesdays. 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. or by appointment.

Course Information

Objectives and Content: This course introduces students to the relationships between archives, societal memory, and the uses of the past. It examines how (from the early nineteenth century on) the growing number, diversity, and evolving roles and holdings of archives have given them a central role in shaping the societal memory that supports the now myriad uses of the past. The course will draw from a wide range of Canadian and international examples. It aims to show how greater understanding of how archives and records shape societal memory can improve the ability of both historical researchers and archivists to use archives more fully and effectively.

The course is intended for three audiences: students who want to understand the societal roles of archives and thereby be more effective users of archives; professional archivists who want to study the history and contemporary uses of archives in an academic setting; and those who are considering becoming archivists. (For the latter, the course is valuable preparation for the master's level Archival Studies program that is offered in the Joint Master's Program in History. Archival Studies students are preparing to enter the archival profession and receive a master's degree upon completion of the program.)

Required Textbook(s): There is no required text. The instructor will provide a reading list at the beginning of the course that draws on a variety of books and articles.

Recommended Readings: The reading list mentioned above provides recommended as well as required readings.

Tentative Outline and Topics to be Covered: The course begins with examination of the variety of memory-keeping activities and institutions that have selected (or shaped) the small portion of communications available for recall by societies. We then position archives in relation to these institutions and activities as playing an often overlooked distinct and increasingly central role in these processes of memory formation. We do so by examining the history of archives to see what types of archives have been created, when, and why, and what types of records they have acquired, when and why. We examine how individuals, institutions, and societies attempt to shape their identities, public perceptions of them, and thus memories of them through these

record making and archiving actions. We then explore other uses of archives (often unanticipated by the creators of records and archives) that have expanded into an extraordinary number and variety in the past 50 years. These include: academic historical, humanities, and social science research; literary and artistic work; filmmaking; scientific, medical, and environmental research; Aboriginal rights, human rights, social justice, and public policy generally; the news media and television and radio broadcasting generally; genealogy, family, and popular history; and the Internet.

A theme throughout the course is that ongoing growth in the uses and benefits of archives depends on understanding as much as possible of the history of how and why individuals, institutions, and societies create, organize, archive, and use records. This contextualization not only assists us to understand the initial purposes of the records (or one key use we can make of them today) but also how they have been re-interpreted in the past and may be re-interpreted again to continue to open up new ways of understanding and using this evolving societal memory.

Referencing Style Guide: The style guide for *Archivaria* (the journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists) is used in this course. See the Association of Canadian Archivists' website: http://www.archivists.ca/sites/default/files/Attachments/Communications_attachments/Archivaria/Archivaria_Style_Guide-Jan2010.pdf

Method of Evaluation

Test(s): There are no tests.

Assignments: The written assignments in this course are as follows:

1. An essay of 10 double-spaced typed pages in 12 point Times font is due on 13 April 2017. It is worth 20 percent of the final grade.
2. Two (2) written reviews of assigned readings (5 double-spaced typed pages in 12 point Times font each). These reviews are each worth 10 percent of the final grade. The reviews are due on 17 February 2017 and 21 March 2017.

A written evaluation of an assignment will be given prior to the voluntary withdrawal date (31 March 2017).

Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Class Participation: This aspect of the course is worth 30 percent of the final grade. This mark is based on your participation in general discussion of each class topic and on formal oral presentations on assigned readings and your 10 page essay.

Final Examination: The final examination is worth 30 percent of the course mark. Date to be determined by the Registrar's Office during the exam period April 22-29, 2017.

Late Assignments/Grade Appeals: One mark will be lost for each day the assignment is overdue. Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

The grade scale for this course is as follows:

A+85 and over; A 80-84; B+ 76-79; B 70-75; C+66-69; C 60-65; D 50-59; F less than 50.

Academic Dishonesty: University policy on academic integrity will be enforced. The University of Manitoba's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and impersonation is available in the Academic Calendar and Catalog, General Academic Regulations, "Academic Integrity" at <http://crscalprod1.cc.umanitoba.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx> and in the Faculty of Arts regulation at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html

The latter reads:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for disciplinary action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Student Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.