



Canadian History 621a - Course Outline 2008-09

Instructor: Coffin
Text: Canada's History: Voices and Visions
Classroom: 229

Topics

Through the study of our country's history, we will explore our origins, our struggles, and the importance of our culture, conflict, and our unique place in the world. We will begin our study of history after **Confederation**, and lead to present-day themes and issues. The text is organized into thematic units which address persistent questions in Canada's history: Globalization, Development, Sovereignty, Governance, and Justice. The sixth unit requires and engages students in a specific piece of historical research. The course emphasizes the importance of student research in the examination of Canada's history and - in particular - the contributions of the young men and women who have served our country in times of global conflict. Some areas of focus:

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - Displacement | - Confederation | - Colonization | - Politics (only a little) |
| - World War One | - World War Two | - Global Influence on Canada | - Guest Presentations |
| - First Nations Topics | - Sovereignty | - Canada's Global Role | - Industrialization |
| - Immigration/Migration | - Human Rights Issues | - Current Issues in Canada | - Topics decided by students |

Assignments & Assessment

This is a grade twelve academic course and the workload shall not be light. It is a university-prep course, which means there is an **emphasis on research and application of research**. There will be daily notes, readings, assignments, and research topics. You will be expected to work at home as well. That said, most of you know my approach to teaching and learning. For the most part, I feel that the approach has been successful. I will be very demanding of you in your participation, assignments, and research projects. Some possible assignments:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| - Canada Mosaic Activity | - Writing/Producing/Filming Historica Minutes |
| - Photography Project | - Article Reviews |
| - World War Weekend | - Oral History Project |
| - World War Cenotaph Research Project | - Propaganda Posters of World War I and II |
| - Photo Essay | - Fab Five of Canadian History |
| - Poetry of the World Wars | - Living History: Conducting Interviews |



Assessment is completed using rubrics (checklists) which evaluate the **process** of your work - not just the end product.

General Classroom Stuff

- ⇒ If you miss a test without a good (and verifiable) excuse, you get **zero**. If you have a verifiable excuse, you will write the test during lunch without question or the grade stays zero. Test totals won't be dropped or added to exams.
- ⇒ Similar rules apply to assignments. If you are not going to be in school on a due date, you **MUST** ensure your assignment is delivered before 3:05 or you will be marked late.
- ⇒ For the most part, all written assignments may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below. Major multimedia shows should be submitted on CD or jump drive as they are often too large to be sent via the Internet.
- ⇒ If you are late, you automatically lose **one entire percentage point on your average**. This could mean passing and failing or honours if you are habitually late for this class.

Attendance

You will miss material if you miss a day in History 621. If you happen to miss a day, check:

<http://coffin.wordpress.com/> (daily review of the work completed in class/assignments/due dates)
iecoffin@edu.pe.ca (where you send assignments and ask questions)

All assignments will be posted on **coffinblog**, which is also where students may discover what was done in class on any given day. It is especially useful to students who miss a day of class and want to know what is happening. **It is required that students missing days check the blog**. I will not accept excuses for missing work from students who miss time. You must use the blog and/or contact your classmates. It is your responsibility.

Canadian Historical Fiction

At various points in the semester, students will be exposed to award-winning wartime fiction from Canadian writers such as Joseph Boyden and Charles Yale Harrison (and others). As we shall focus on Canada's role in the world wars, it is important to experience the viewpoint of Canadian soldiers and artists. Occasionally, a chapter or excerpt shall be read to the class with discussion to follow.



Discussion Forum

A course requirement (worth 10% of the course each semester and 20% overall) is participation in a weekly discussion forum. Each Monday, a question/article will be posted to one of the forums. You will have until 9:00 pm the following Monday to complete your response. Occasionally, you will pose your own questions on the **Open Forum** section of the site and students from this class (and perhaps across the country) shall respond. Responses are usually 250-words.

Weekly Research

Since Canadian History 621A students spend much of their time researching, we shall dedicate **one day per week** to research in either the library resource centre or the computer lab. This time will be spent either completing weekly discussion activities or working on larger research activities. Class will meet in the labs on these appointed days.

Required Readings

With each unit of study, students will also be given a required reading (a chapter in our text or other texts, magazine or Internet articles, maps, documents, video, audio, etc). It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the required readings and all readings are fair game for tests and examinations. Many university history classes have this feature.

Cenotaph Research Project Symposium

We will each choose a soldier from the First or Second World War, attain his war record and try to retrace his steps on the European battlefields. This is a major research project, but also very rewarding. In some cases, we will forward our findings to the soldier's family - who, in most cases, never knew the story of their ancestor's life and death.

World War Weekend

In early June, this class will participate in an outdoor overnight activity which simulates the experiences of Canada's Expeditionary Force's soldiers in the World Wars. The activity includes marching, combat training (with members of the PEI Regiment), preparing trenches, sleeping in barracks, and participating in a simulated battle (at Spike's Paintball in York, PEI). Students may have to conduct some nominal (and quick) fundraising to help us subsidize this endeavour.

Mid-Term & Final Evaluations

This course offers students the opportunity to write one formal examination and to participate one alternative type of assessment (oral history project, symposium, etc). We shall decide as a class whether we would prefer the written examination at the mid-term or at the conclusion of the course.

Useful Internet Sites

Canadian History 621 Discussion Blog:	http://coffin2.wordpress.com/
Canada's Historical Society:	http://www.historysociety.ca/index.asp
Histor!ca:	http://www.histori.ca
Commonwealth War Graves Commission:	http://www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/search.aspx
Canada's War Museum:	http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/chrono/1914first_ww_e.html
Canadian Virtual War Memorial:	http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/
Government of Canada:	http://canada.gc.ca/main_e.html
Canada History Canada:	http://www.canadahistory.com/

Research and Presentation

Research is an **integral portion** of this course. Also of importance is the manner in which you present your research. Occasionally, single students will be required to present their research to their classmates by way of a prepared speech or multimedia presentation. If you have difficulties presenting in front of your peers, you may be in for a long semester.

Assessment Scheme

Each time an assignment is given, you will be provided with a rubric or checklist which tells you what areas will be assessed. We will have class tests, oral and written assignments, debates, symposiums, essays (of course), and alternative assignments.

Canadian History 621 Tests	(at the completion of each unit of study)	30 %
Canadian History 621 Activities	(homework, presentations, photo essay, symposium, etc)	30 %
Canadian History 621 Discussion Responses	(responses, questions, article submissions)	20 %
Canadian History 621 Examination	(mid-term and final examinations)	20 %

'Our hopes are high. Our faith in the people is great. Our courage is strong. And our dreams for this beautiful country will never die.'
- Pierre Trudeau

'There are no limits to the majestic future which lies before the mighty expanse of Canada with its virile, aspiring, cultured, and generous-hearted people.'
- Sir Winston Churchill