



HISTORY 2201E (570)
Canada's Past: A Critical History from the Origins to the Present
Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Stroyan
Email: tstroyan@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course surveys the history of Canada with an emphasis on Indigenous peoples, colonialism and imperialism; the history of warfare and international relations; immigration, industrialization and state formation; and the diverse ways that gender, class and race shaped the lives of everyday Canadians.

Prerequisite(s):

Antirequisite(s): [History 1201E](#), [History 1202F/G](#), [History 2203E](#), [History 2204F/G](#), [History 2205E](#), [History 2710F/G](#).

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 1.00

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: History

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this 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 prerequisites.

History 2201E
Canada's Past: A Critical History from the Origins to Present
Fall 2025 - Winter 2026

Mode of instruction: in-person



Instructor: **Thomas Stroyan**

Email: tstroyan@uwo.ca

Office Hours: **By appointment**

Course Description

History 2201E examines the development of Canada from its 'origins' to the present day. This is an in-person survey course that will provide a general synthesis of some of the major forces and changes in Canadian history. It will show that Canadian history is more than the study of politics, great men, and institutions. While the traditional story of Canadian history will be examined in this class, emphasis will also be placed on the study of other aspects of Canadian history, such as immigration, 'race' relations, and identity. It will highlight the untold stories of this country and its past. HIST 2201E will challenge your assumptions about Canadian history. This is not like your high school history course!

History 2201E will also introduce the student to some of the practical methods employed by professional historians, such as data interpretation, the use of primary and secondary source materials, and the development of research and writing skills specific to the historical profession. Lectures and class discussions will emphasize the methodology and the philosophy of history. Students will be presented with a variety of viewpoints in order to increase their experience in interpreting and evaluating historical forces, personalities and events.

Topics to be examined include: Indigenous peoples, New France, slavery, Newfoundland, immigration policy and "scientific" racism, the rise of Canadian political parties, war and Canada, urbanization, gender history, postwar reaction against racism and the movement for human rights, the Quiet Revolution, and the development of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This course uses OWL to post all course-related materials.

We acknowledge that our campus at King's University College is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lenaapeewak, and Chonnonton peoples, all of whom have longstanding relationships to the land of Southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The First Nations communities of our local area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. And in our region,

This is a draft outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

there are eleven First nations communities, as well as a growing indigenous urban population. King's University College values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations, and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island (also known as North America).

Course Objectives

1. To provide students with a knowledgeable background on the history of Canada from the 16th to the 20th centuries via lectures, discussions, and guest speakers.
2. To assess critically academic debates within the context of the past through lectures and in-class debates.
3. To develop and enhance communication and critical reasoning skills through reading, analysis of sources, and seminar participation.
4. To offer students an opportunity to discuss and to critically analyze the history of Canada in an open and collegial environment.

Learning Outcomes

1. Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
2. Identify the key figures and their influence on the development of Canada.
3. Outline the major eras and the defining relationships that shaped Canadian history and the development of Canada as an independent nation.
4. Describe the major schools of thought in the historiography of Canadian history.
5. Articulate reasoned arguments about various aspects of the history of Canada in both verbal and written forms.

Course Syllabus

Students will write one primary document assignment, one historiography assignment, one midterm test in the fall term and a final examination in the winter term. Students will also participate in biweekly tutorials where they will discuss ideas about lecture and class readings in.

Note: per the Department of History requirements, a student who fails to submit all the required written assignments which together make up the "Essay" component of the course will not receive credit for the course. For HIST 2201E the essay components are the Primary Documents Assignment and the Historiography Assignment.

Academic Considerations

Both the Primary Documents Assignment and the Historiography Assignment have a built-in grace period of 5 days in which no late marks will be applied. Beyond these five days the King's University College History Department late policy will be followed. Further academic required formal supporting documentation. The University policy on academic consideration is found here:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

King's University College at the University of Western Ontario History Department Policy Regarding Essay Submission, Late Essay, and Written Work Not Submitted

1. A penalty of five (5) marks will be assessed for essays submitted the first day after the deadline.
2. A penalty of one (1) mark will be assessed for each subsequent day, including weekends.
3. No essays will be accepted after the 7th day beyond the deadline, including weekends.
4. Exceptions to the above provisions will be granted only on the basis of
 - (a) humanitarian grounds (Note: In fairness to all students, documented evidence will be required when a death or serious illness in the family has occurred);
 - (b) medical grounds for which written proof must be provided (Note: This must be submitted to the Academic Dean's Office).
5. Computer breakdowns will not be considered under provision 4 (a).
6. Essays are due on the date specified.
7. A student who fails to submit all the required written assignments which together make up the "Essay" component of the course will not receive credit for the course.

Required Course Texts

The course textbook for HIST 2201E is in open text and is available online.

Fall Semester: Belshaw, John Douglas. Canadian History: Pre-Confederation. Vancouver: BC Open Textbook Project, 2015. <https://opentextbc.ca/preconfederation/>

Winter Semester: Belshaw, John Douglas. Canadian History: Post-Confederation. Vancouver: BC Open Textbook Project, 2016. <https://opentextbc.ca/postconfederation/>

Course Readings on OWL and/or on reserve in the Cardinal Carter Library

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance/In-Class Discussion (15%) – Ongoing, during scheduled tutorial hours from 4:30-5:20pm every other week. (Tutorial schedule available below)

On the first day of class, students will be divided into two groups, groups A and B. Groups A and B will rotate weekly to participate in a 50 minute bi-weekly tutorial. Students are expected to complete assigned tutorial readings for that week and discuss them with their group. Tutorial readings will be available on OWL Brightspace. Once assigned to a group, **do not** switch groups without first consulting professor Stroyan.

Primary Documents Assignment (20%) Due on OWL Brightspace, October 30th

Assignment details will be available on OWL Brightspace.

This is a draft outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Historiography Assignment (20%) – Due on OWL Brightspace, February 27th

Assignment details will be available on OWL Brightspace.

Midterm Test (20%) – During regularly scheduled class hours, November 27th

Students will write an in-person midterm test on material from the first semester of class. The test will focus on material presented in class. Where students are welcome to draw from tutorial materials and discussions, this will not be expected of students and questions will not be geared towards tutorials specifically.

Final Exam (25%) – To be scheduled by the Registrar in winter term

Students will write an in-person final exam primarily on material from the second semester of the course, although some exam questions will be cumulative in nature and expect students to draw from broad themes of the entire course. Where students are welcome to draw from tutorial materials and discussions, this will not be expected of students and questions will not be geared towards tutorials specifically.

Lecture and Tutorial Schedule

SEPTEMBER	4	Course Introduction & The “discovery” of the “new world” (Belshaw, Pre-Confederation – ch. 2)
	11	New France (Belshaw, Pre-Confederation – ch. 3)
	18	Slavery in Canada (Belshaw, Pre-Confederation – 6.9, 6.10-6.12, 7.7) Tutorial #1 GROUP A (Women and the Fur Trade)
	25	New France cont’d; Acadia (Belshaw, Pre-Confederation – ch. 4) Tutorial #1 GROUP B (Women and the Fur Trade)
OCTOBER	2	Canada and the American Revolution (Belshaw, Pre-Confederation, ch. 7) Tutorial #2 GROUP A (Upper Canada and the War of 1812)
	9	The War of 1812: Causes and Legacy & Rebellion in the Canadas (Documentary – <i>Been There, Won That</i> , CBC 2014) Tutorial #2 GROUP B (Upper Canada and the War of 1812)
	16	Society in 19 th Century BNA (Belshaw – Pre-Confederation, ch. 10) Tutorial #3 GROUP A (Canadian Society in the 19 th Century)
	23	The Making of Confederation: Part I (Belshaw, Pre-Confederation, ch. 11)

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Tutorial #3 GROUP B
(Canadian Society in the 19th Century)

30 ****PRIMARY DOCUMENTS ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY****

- NOVEMBER**
- 7 *****3 Nov. – 9 Nov.: Reading Week*****
- 13 The Making of Confederation: Part II (Belshaw, Pre-Confederation, ch. 14)
Discussion of Primary Documents Assignment
Tutorial #4 GROUP A
(Confederation Debates)
- 20 The National Policies and the ‘New’ Canada (Belshaw, - **Post-Confederation** 2.1-2.4, 2.13, 3.3)
Tutorial #4 GROUP B
(Confederation Debates)

27 ***Midterm Test***

- DECEMBER**
- 4 Clashing Identities and Westward Expansion (Belshaw – **Post-Confederation** 2.5-2.8)

Drop Date: The last date to drop full year courses, without academic penalty, is November 30, 2024.

- JANUARY**
- 8 Setting the Foundations: Canada 1867-1885
(Belshaw, Post-Confederation, 11.5-11.7)
- 15 The Era of Competing “Isms” - Canada 1891 – 1911
(Belshaw, Post Confederation, 4.5-4.6, 7.1-7.8)
- 22 Migrant Invasion and Societal Illness, Canada’s Responses to Asian Immigration and Modernity - 1891- 1911
(Belshaw, Post-Confederation, 5.1-5.8)
Tutorial #5 GROUP A
- 29 Canada and the Great War, 1914-1918
(Belshaw, Post-Confederation, 6.1-6.4)
Tutorial #5 GROUP B
- FEBRUARY**
- 5 Aftermath of the First World War and the “Roaring” 20s -1919-1929
Tutorial #6 GROUP A

- 12 The “Dirty” 30s, 1929-1939
(Belshaw, Post-Confederation, 6.9-6.19)
Tutorial #6 GROUP B
- 19 *****14 Feb. – 22 Feb.: Reading Week*****
- 26 Second World War, 1939-1945
(Belshaw, Post-Confederation, 8.5-8.15)
Tutorial #7 GROUP A
- MARCH**
- 5 Post-King Era, Human Rights, and the Cold War, 1945-1957
(Belshaw, Post-Confederation, 9.1 – 9.4)
Tutorial #7 GROUP B
- 12 The Not-So-Swinging Sixties, from Diefenbaker to Pearson, 1957-1968
(Belshaw, Post-Confederation, 7.10, 9.9 – 9.10, 9.16 – 9.17, 11.8, 11.10)
Tutorial #8 GROUP A
- 19 The Swinging Seventies, the Trudeau and Clark Eras, 1968-1984
Tutorial #8 GROUP B
- 26 Free Trade, Reform and Protest (Oh My!), The Mulroney and Chretien Eras, 1984-2003
- APRIL**
- 2 A Brief History of Now, 2003-2026 (Roughly) and Exam Review

Additional Statements

Communication policies

The best place to reach me is via email: tstroyan@uwo.ca. I reply as quickly as possible but just in case, bank on at least 24-48 hours before I respond to you, especially on weekends. (I would recommend not leaving communications with me to the last minute, emails on the night before a due date for example, are ill-advised.)

Learning Inclusively and Bravely

1. Please inform me if you have a preferred name or gender pronoun.
2. Everyone, including your professors, are to be treated with respect. Review CONDUCT 1, CONDUCT 2, and PROFESSIONALISM.
3. Comments should be based on facts (if applicable/possible) to foster productive dialogue and debate.
4. Growth and deep understanding often come from challenging discussions and debate while confronting discomfort. At the same time, there should be no harassing, discriminating, bullying, offensive, or demeaning statements and behaviour. See Bullying and Harassment and Microaggressions,
5. The instructor is committed to supporting diverse learners in an inclusive, accessible, and reasonable manner.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have

experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic

Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see [https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html](https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports - TurnItIn.html).

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.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

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