

HIST*3450
THE USES OF HISTORY
WINTER 2016

As an introduction to the use of history outside the classroom, this course discusses public history and memory through the activities of governments, corporations, and voluntary associations. History as political propaganda, marketing strategy, and ideological support in a global and historical context is examined. Discussions will focus on history as presented in films, television, monuments, museums, commemorations, and other public and popular media.

Instructor: Dr. Alan Gordon

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30-12:50

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The particular focus of this semester will be a hands-on introduction to public history work. Assignments will be based on the presentation of history in public forums, notably historic plaques and museum displays. There will be a balance of collaborative group work as well as individual assignments.

Format: This course will follow a joint lecture and discussion format. Some days, particularly at the beginning of the semester, will introduce key concepts in lecture format. Other days will mix lecture and discussion. Some days will involve small group discussions.

Required Texts: There is no text book for this course. Weekly readings can be located on course reserve or through the D2L website maintained for the course.

Evaluation: There are two major assignments and a midterm exam in this course. The first assignment is to research and write a historic plaque on a pre-determined topic. This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade and is due in class on 4 February. The second assignment will be to work together in teams to design a hypothetical proposal of an exhibit for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. This assignment is worth 60% of your final grade, but is subdivided into three components: the first (approximately 40% of the assignment) is to design and present with your group a museum gallery; the second is for each student to write an essay explaining your group's gallery (approximately 40% of the assignment); the third is a peer evaluation of the work of your teammates. There will be a midterm exam on Monday 22 February. The midterm will cover materials from the readings and materials discussed in class before Reading Week and is worth 20% of your final grade.