

***History 2500 6.0 FW 2020-21***  
***Canadian History***  
***Professors Kathryn McPherson and William Wicken***

***Class Times***

*Thursdays, 10:30 to 12:30* – Material Presented Remotely in a Flexible Format (see below for details), with online tutorials on Thursdays as well.

***Co-Course Directors:*** Dr. Kathryn McPherson  
142 Founders College  
[Kathryn@yorku.ca](mailto:Kathryn@yorku.ca)

Dr. William Wicken  
2192 Vari Hall  
[wwicken@yorku.ca](mailto:wwicken@yorku.ca)

*Professor McPherson* specializes in the history of women, work, and health from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. She is a former Associate Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. She was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Professor McPherson is also an avid basketball coach and will often intersperse her lectures with timely sports' adages.

*Professor Wicken* specializes in the history of Indigenous people and has testified extensively as an expert witness in various constitutional court cases over the past 25 years. He is trained principally as an historian of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Professor Wicken grew up in a number of places in southern and northern Ontario. He is an avid sports fan.

***Tutorial Assistants: To Be Announced***

Tutorial Assistants in History 2500 are Ph.D. students who are completing a dissertation on some aspect of Canadian history. Ph.D. students are graduate students who have already received B.A Honour degrees as well as Masters' degrees. Normally, Tutorial Assistants in History 2500 have already passed their comprehensive examinations. These examinations are usually held during the second year of a Ph.D. student's programme and consist of written and oral components. The exams require the student to read about 150 books on various aspects of Canadian history. Teaching Assistants assigned to History 2500 generally have an excellent grasp of Canadian history. As well, Ph.D. students have oral and written exams on one other topic in addition to their Canadian field. This topic can be both regional and thematic.

Normally, assignments of Teaching Assistants (TAs) to specific courses is finalized in early July. We will update this page once the Teaching Assistants for this course are determined.

Tutorials are mandatory. You must be signed up for one tutorial. Given the unusual situation, we will make accommodations for students who may not be able to attend tutorials. In the meantime, students should register for one tutorial.

Tutorial 1: 2:30 to 3:20

Tutorial 2: 2:30 to 3:20

Tutorial 3: 4:30 to 5:20

Tutorial 4: 4:30 to 5:20

## Course Content and Structure

From the arrival of its first human inhabitants tens of thousands of years ago to its increasingly globalized modern population, the Canadian state has undergone numerous transformations. This course will examine the history of Canada from its earliest times to the present focusing on key transformations in the country's environmental, social, political, economic and cultural history. This survey of the nation-state from coast to coast to coast will introduce students to the main themes in Canadian history. The course will trace broad changes over time and the consequences of colonization, ecological transformation, resettlement, the development of an industrial capitalist economy, the emergence of the Canadian state, the role of global imperialism, urbanization, and Canada's changing position in international politics. In a country in the midst of change, this course will help students understand the transformations of the past and the roots of our present circumstances.

There are two major themes this year. In the first term, we will focus on the settler colonization of the region which would become Canada. In the second term, we will examine how this colonized region became 'modern.' In the first term, we will focus on the period before 1840 and in the second term, the period afterward. However, since the region we know as Canada today was part of a larger land mass which we know as North America and was, and has become, part of a larger North Atlantic and eventually global world, we will be also sometimes be referring to 'Canada' within a larger geographical context.

Each week, we will examine one or two individuals whose lives can be used to analyse broader economic, social and political themes. Some of these individuals were politicians, business leaders, labour leaders, and political activists. In other cases, the people we discuss were just ordinary people, who stood up against injustice or who were accused of murder or whose lives became entangled in events larger than themselves.

There will be weekly two-hour lectures. Normally these lectures would be done in person. However, given the current situation, all University courses are being done online or remotely.

### *What is the difference?*

Remotely means that, as much as possible, students will have live audio and/facial contact with their Professors and Tutorial Assistants, via ZOOM, and we will use the assigned course time as much as possible. (All York students have access to **ZOOM** in order to attend both lectures and tutorials.)

However, we also understand that every students' situation is different and some may not be able to access the internet at the designated time. As well, we are concerned that for some students and for the lecturers as well, the internet may become unstable during a live lecture. **Therefore, we will be posting an audio lecture on the course's Moodle website every Monday morning before the Thursday class.**

We will then hold a **live zoom** meeting with all students each Thursday, beginning at 10:30 AM. This will allow students to ask questions about lecture and course material and to allow instructors to workshop key concepts or review assignment instructions. We will also be using that time to break into smaller groups. **Zoom** allows us to do this. Since there are multiple instructors for this course, each instructor will be assigned to a specific group of students.

There will also be live tutorials conducted via zoom in the assigned tutorial time. In this case, the Tutorial Assistants will be present and not the course directors. Tutorials will not be held every week and will focus on specific questions pertaining to lecture material and course reading and to course assignments. Students who cannot be present for the online tutorials will have the option of completing an online post instead.

## Grade Breakdown

Tutorial Participation (in tutorial and/or through online posts):	20%
First Assignments (2 short essays):	25%
December Exam (multiple choice/short answer):	15%
Second Term Assignments (2 short essays):	25%
Final Exam (format TBA):	15%

## Course Texts

The following texts will be used in this course. Both **texts can be downloaded for free.**

John Belshaw, *Canadian History: Pre-Confederation* (BC Open Textbook Project, 2015)

John Belshaw. *Canadian History: Post-Confederation* (BC Open Textbook Project, 2015).

Sean Kheraj and Thomas Peace. *Open History Seminar: Canadian History* (Toronto: 2017).

If you wish to have a hard copy of the Belshaw texts, then you can order copies, but be forewarned: we will not be using all of both texts, but only selections.

## MOODLE

All relevant information about this course can be found on the course's **Moodle** website. To access this website, you must be registered in the course. As you likely know, once you are officially registered you are automatically linked to the site.