

**University of Calgary
Department of History**

HTST 593-01

Selected Topics in History: History and Commodities

Winter 2017

W 2.00-4.45pm

SS 613

Instructor: Glenn Wilkinson
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: W 1.00-2.00pm

Course Description

This course will examine the interaction between the discovery and integration of commodities and the development of institutions, society, and culture. It will cover a large time span and a wide geographical range in order to gain perspective on the influence of commodities through social and cultural history.

Objectives of the Course

The objectives of this course include: the understanding of changing paradigms and worldviews; the development of critical thinking; the writing of research papers, and fostering the ability to understand the purpose and importance of historical enquiry. The main goal is to see that the past can be seen in diverse and creative ways, and that commodities and their connection to culture is one of them.

Textbooks and Readings

Available in the bookstore:

Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants, and Intoxicants, Wolfgang Schivelbusch Vintage Books, 1993

A History of the World in Six Glasses, Tom Standage, Walker and Company, 2006

Available online:

'Commodity Histories', Bruce Robbins, *PMLA*, Vol. 120, No. 2 (March 2005) pp. 454-463

Internet and electronic communication device information

Please turn off cell phones and other non-educational devices and use your computers for only academically related purposes. Please do not film, record, or take photos in class without permission.

Assignments and Evaluation

This course is seminar based and will involve student participation and active contributions. It is

paper-based, which means the assignments lead towards a larger paper at the end of the term. Everyone is expected to contribute to everyone else's success in the classroom. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Paper Proposal and Outline

Students will be asked to write an essay proposal with a thesis statement and an outline of what it is they wish to research for their final term paper. This assignment is designed to encourage students to begin the process of research for their term paper, but it is not a contract, as your topic may change. It can also be used as a starting point for their paper presentation to the seminar.

Due: February 8

Value: 10%

Seminar Leadership

Students will lead 2 seminar discussions based on one of the readings assigned for the week. These presentations are meant to foster discussions in the seminar related to thematic and methodological issues related to the course theme on the notion of commodity history. These are designed to encourage and open up discussion and debate in the seminar. They will be no more than 5 minutes in duration and students will do two during the course of the semester. We will work on a schedule during the first class and roster will be posted on D2L.

Due: Varies

Value: 10% (2 X 5% each)

Paper Presentation

Students will present their ideas and paper themes to the class. The class will provide critical and useful suggestions.

Due: Varies

Value: 10%

Term Paper

Students will be asked to write a 15-20-page term paper on any subject relating to history and commodities and their social/cultural impact. This can follow the direction of the outline and bibliography but that is not required. Your essay must contain primary documents and demonstrate historical use of those documents. The 15-20-page length should be based upon standard margins, Times New Roman 12pt. font.

Due: April 11

Value: 50%

Participation

Students are expected to actively engage with the material, their colleagues, and to present their own ideas on the readings. This means that just showing up is not enough to garner full marks.

Date: Ongoing

Value: 20%

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly your instructor if possible in class. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available outside the History Department office on the 6th Floor of the Social Science Building. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Reading Schedule

Week 1 (January 11)

Introduction

Week 2 (January 18)

Background to History and Commodities

Reading: Bruce Robbins, 'Commodity Histories', pp. 454-463

Week 3 (January 25)

Standage, Introduction and Beer

Week 4 (February 1)

Standage, Wine and Spirits

Week 5 (February 8)

Standage, Coffee and Tea and Coca-Cola

*******Paper Proposal and Outline Due February 8*******

Week 6 (February 15)

Reading Week – No Classes

Week 7 (February 22)

Schivelbusch, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 8 (March 1)

Schivelbusch, Chapters 3 and 4

Week 9 (March 8)

Schivelbusch, Chapters 5 and 6

Week 10 (March 15)

Schivelbusch, Chapters 7 and 8

Week 11 (March 22) Paper Presentations**Week 12 (March 28) Paper Presentations****Week 13 (April 5) Paper Presentations**

*******Term Paper Due April 5*******

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist - For departmental updates and notifications

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and

register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: course name and number, instructor, your name and your student number. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- *Safewalk and Campus Security*: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

- *Freedom of Information*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>
- *Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
- *Safewalk*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>
- *Student Union Information*: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>
- *Graduate Student Association*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>
- *Student Ombudsman Office*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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