



Department of History

HTST 200

Events and Ideas that Changed the World:
Ordinary Things, Extraordinary Histories
Fall, 2021

Instructor: Dr. J.L. Spangler

Email: spangler@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: On Zoom. W noon-1 (drop-in) or email to set up an appointment. Zoom link provided via D2L, under Communications.

Classroom/times: ST 148, MWF 11:00-11:50

Course Modality: Semi-Hyflex (in person classes, mostly, with asynchronous voice-recordings of lectures posted to D2L and fully digital, remote assessment)

Teaching Assistant: Catherine Audia, catherine.audia1@ucalgary.ca

Description

This is an introductory course designed specifically for non-history majors.¹ This term it examines several historical turning points between about 1450 and the middle of the twentieth century by considering the history behind some once-common items. Specifically, we'll be looking at the printed book, a cup of tea with sugar, and two items emblematic of the early transition to fossil fuels, a lump of coal and a can of kerosene. Much of the world will be touched on at some point, but Europe and the Americas will be a major focus for this course.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course successful students should be able to:

- * Explain links between some everyday objects and broader global histories
- * Explain some of the currently used interpretative frameworks of world history
- * Assess secondary sources to identify argument, structure, and evidence as well as factual narrative.
- * Demonstrate improved critical thinking and analytical skills
- * Demonstrate improved listening and note-taking skills

Required Texts

All readings are delivered electronically through D2L (at no cost to students) and are listed in the class schedule below. Reading averages under 30 pages a week.

¹ History 200 cannot be counted toward the program requirements of the history major or minor.

Content Delivery:

Lectures will (mostly) be delivered in person (conforming to current U of C policy) but will also be voice recorded and posted to D2L as mp3s. The **Lectures on Sept. 24, Oct. 22, and Nov. 26** will be **pre-recorded (video and audio) only**, and posted to D2L in advance of their scheduled time of delivery (to accommodate unavoidable administrative meetings). Several video clips are part of course materials. You will be provided with links for those clips through D2L's "Content" area so that you have the option to watch them outside of the classroom as well.

Assessments will be entirely machine-marked and will be completed through D2L only. On exam days during the term students are welcome to use our classroom during class time as a quiet space in which to take the exams if they wish.

Cumulativeness: The course is divided into 3 “modules,” centered on everyday objects with extraordinary histories (the printed book, a cup of tea with sugar, and coal and kerosene). There is a bit of carry-over from one module to the next (which will be clearly noted as we go along), and the first assigned reading (by Marks) is in play for the entire term. Otherwise, the modules are separate entities, and the course is not cumulative from one module to the next.

Assessment

Assessment Method	Weight	Date
Module 1 Exam (the printed book)	20 %	Oct . 4
Module 2 Exam (cup of tea with sugar)	25 %	Nov . 3
Module 3 Exam (coal and kerosene)	30 %	TBD
Reading Quizzes (7), lowest score dropped	20 %	See schedule below
Top Hat Participation	5%	All term (can be completed without attending class in person)

Explanation of Assessments

Exams: Each of the three modules of the course concludes with an exam. All exams will be delivered via D2L’s quiz function and will be comprised of 25-40 randomized questions drawn from a question bank. If these exams had been given in person, each would have been 30-40 minutes in length, but to account for possible technical glitches they will each be timed at 45-60 minutes (exact times announced in advance and clearly stated in the exams themselves). The first two exams will be available to be taken **over a full day**, from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on the

day it is scheduled. Once students start an exam during the availability period, the minutes of the actual exam begin being counted down. **Students are responsible for starting the exam early enough that the 24-hour period doesn't end before the student's individual exam period ends.**

The last exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during exam period. It will be 60 minutes long, given electronically via D2L's quiz feature, and be available to be taken over a shorter period of time than the other two exams (i.e. about 3 hours). More details will be announced in class.

Exam questions can be loosely described as multiple-choice, meaning that students select answers from options. Some questions could be True/False, matching and the like. Students will be introduced to the different types of questions used for this course during lectures.

Reading Quizzes: For most of the assigned readings there will be a brief reading quiz, as listed in the schedule below, delivered through D2L's quiz function. The quizzes will be available for a one-day period, from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on the scheduled day. Once students begin a quiz they will have between 10 and 20 minutes to complete it (details TBA). The quizzes consist of up to 10 randomized multiple-choice questions drawn from a question bank. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Missed Assessment Policy

Students are expected to take exams and reading quizzes on the days that they are scheduled. If illness or emergency should intervene, a make-up exam can be scheduled. Because the lowest mark on the reading quizzes will be dropped, students are generally not offered make-ups of the quizzes except in particularly difficult and sustained circumstances.

Learning Technologies Requirements

The D2L site for this course is the main interface for learning and assessment materials. In order to successfully complete this course, you will need reliable access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone with a reasonably current web browser and/or appropriate apps, and a reliable internet connection. Office hours will be conducted over Zoom, so to participate students will need a microphone (or to arrange for a phone call instead).

Schedule

Week	Topic & Reading	Exams and Quizzes
Sept 8-10	Introduction and Module 1: The Printed Book Reading: Robert B. Marks, <i>The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Environmental Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century</i> (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015), 19-40.	
Sept 13 – 17	Reading: Johanna Drucker, <i>History of the Book Coursebook</i> , Chapter 5,	

	(https://hob.gseis.ucla.edu/HoBCoursebook_Ch_5.html)	
Sept 20–24	Reading: <u>abridged</u> version of Jeremiah Dittmar, “Information Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of the Printing Press,” <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 126:3 (2011).	Reading Quiz 1 , on Drucker, Monday
Sept. 27-Oct 1	Reading: None	Reading Quiz 2 , on Dittmar, Monday
October 4 (Monday)	Exam on Module 1	Exam on Module 1: Oct 4
Oct 6-8	Module 2: Cup of Tea with Sugar Readings: Laura C. Martin, <i>A History of Tea: The Life and Times of the World's Favorite Beverage</i> (Tuttle, 2018), 97-122.	
October 11	Thanksgiving, No Class	
Oct 13-15	Reading: Andrew B. Liu, “The Birth of the Noble Tea Country: On the Geography of Colonial Capital and the Origins of Indian Tea,” <i>Journal of Historical Sociology</i> 23:1 (2010): 73-100.	
Oct 18-22	Reading: Elizabeth Abbott, <i>Sugar: A Bittersweet History</i> (Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2008), 77-120.	Reading Quiz 3 , on Liu, Monday
Oct 25-29	Reading: None	Reading Quiz 4 , on Abbott, Monday
Nov 1-5		Exam on Module 2: Wednesday, Nov 3
Nov 8-12	Reading Week – No Classes	
Nov 15-19	Module 3: Fossil Fuels Vaclav Smil, “World History and Energy,” in <i>Concise Encyclopedia of History of Energy</i> , ed. C. Cleveland (Elsevier, 2009): 331-338; and Roy L. Nersesian, <i>Energy for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide to Conventional and Alternative Sources</i> (2 nd ed.; Routledge, 2015), 92-105.	
Nov 22-26	Readings: Anthony N. Penna, <i>A History of Energy Flows: From Human Labour to Renewable Power</i> (Routledge, 2020), Ch 4.	Reading Quiz 5 , on Smil <u>and</u> Nersesian, Monday
Nov 29-Dec 3	Readings: Katayoun Shafiee, <i>Machineries of Oil: An Infrastructural History of BP in Iran</i> (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2018), Ch. 1.	Reading Quiz 6 , on Penna, Monday
Dec 6-8	Readings: None.	Reading Quiz 7 , on Shafiee

Class Policies

Knowing where the ethical lines are in these times can be confusing, so I will be very explicit here. You are welcome to discuss materials and prepare for exams and quizzes with others. All exams and quizzes are open book. However, the quizzes and exams themselves **are to be completed by each individual student, working alone and not communicating** with others about it. The questions are not to be photographed or otherwise shared with anyone, inside or outside of the class. Lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor. They are not to be appropriated or distributed by students.

On-Line Quiz/Exam Special Instructions

Please be aware that once an exam or quiz on D2L has been started there is no way to pause it (just like IRL), so students should get situated in a quiet space with the relevant readings etc. available before launching them.

In the unlikely event that you run into a glitch that freezes a quiz or exam, don't panic. Immediately take a screen shot (include the time if you can) and close down the exam. Try to re-enter to complete it, but if that doesn't work, email your screenshot to me with an explanation of what happened right away. Email even if it's 3 in the morning. It's your best evidence that things beyond your control have happened. I'll use the screenshot to investigate. If warranted, I'll reset the quiz/exam so you can finish at a later time. We have data on when and how quizzes are accessed by each student to help us with this.

History 200 Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is approved by the History Department faculty for use **only in History 200**. Please note, it is different from the standard grading system used by the History Department. Final marks **will not** be rounded up (ie. if you get a 79.97, it's a B, not a B+).

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
95-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
90-95	A	4.00	Excellent performance
85-90	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
80-85	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
75-80	B	3.00	Good performance
70-75	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
65-70	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
60-65	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
55-60	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
53-55	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
50-53	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC). For information on how to reach the ASC team please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>
- For Enrolment Services advising (such as admissions, student awards, course registration support, financial aid and student fees) or registration issues, contact the Office of the Registrar. For information on how to reach their team please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/contact-us/enrolment-services-advising>
- For information on Registration Changes and Exemption Requests please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

***Attention history majors:** History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.*

Academic Accommodations:

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>.

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy guides us in how we respond to incidents, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed them. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, 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. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

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. Please see *The History Student's Handbook*,
<https://arts.ucalgary.ca/history/current-students/undergraduate/student-handbook>.

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 Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*, Section K: Integrity and Conduct, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Other Useful Information:

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Campus Security and Safewalk (220-5333)

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

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