This course introduces students to the significant social, political, economic, and cultural events that took place in our country long before the nation-state of Canada was officially established in 1867. Course content will begin with the lifeways of indigenous peoples across the continent prior to the arrival of newcomers, and examine the nature and extent of initial contacts between Natives and Newcomers. The settlement schemes, economic activities, and military encounters of colonial European powers, and the resultant settlement of successive groups of migrants and refugees on Canadian soil, will be discussed. The evolution of Canada’s relations with aboriginal peoples will be traced from their initial role as trading partners and military allies to treaty partners, followed by the political and constitutional negotiations that resulted in Canadian confederation.

Students will be required to write a mid-term exam, a term paper, and a final exam.