

Lecturer: Dr Alexander Hill	Class Time: TuTh 08:00-09:15
Telephone: (Hill) 220 6419; or Main Office 220 6401	Location: SS113
Office: Social Sciences 620	Office Hours: TuTh 09:30-10:15
Email: hilla@ucalgary.ca	

HTST300 – The Practice of History

Lectures

This course provides a methodological foundation for students studying History and also for those using historical sources and methods in other disciplines. As might be expected, the focus of the course is very much on the different types of historical sources available to historians and their use (and abuse) by historians and others over time!

Assessment

Assessment takes the form of an academic book review, source comparison exercise and two multiple-choice quizzes (see pages 2-4 of this outline).

Reading

The course textbook (required) is:

John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History: aims, methods and new directions in the study of history* (London and New York: Routledge, 2015).

Required reading from the textbook is listed in the class outline below.

Class Outline

Week 1 – week of Tuesday 12 January: **Introduction and Historical Awareness (Tosh, Chapter 1)**

Please bring a printout of the course outline to the first class.

Week 2 – week of Tuesday 19 January: **The Uses (and Abuses) of History (Tosh, Chapter 2)** [21 January – focus group]

Week 3 – week of Tuesday 26 January: **The History of History (For weeks 3-5, Tosh Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8)**

Week 4 – week of Tuesday 2 February: **History, Social Theory and Other Academic Disciplines**

Week 5 – week of Tuesday 9 February: **The Raw Materials – An Introduction to Historical Sources and MID-TERM QUIZ IN CLASS** (Thursday 11 February)

Week 6 – READING WEEK

Week 7 – week of Tuesday 23 February: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 1 (For weeks 7-10, Tosh, Chapters 4, 9, 11)**

Week 8 – week of Tuesday 1 March: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 2**

Week 9 – week of Tuesday 8 March: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 3**

Week 10 – week of Tuesday 15 March: **The Raw Materials – Historical Sources 4** [17 March – focus group]

Week 11 – week of Tuesday 22 March: **Mapping the Field – Different Types of History (For weeks 11-12, Tosh, Chapters 3 and 10 – you might also like to take a first look at Chapter 12)**

Week 12 – week of Tuesday 29 March: **Mapping the Field – Different Types of History 2**

Week 13 – week of Tuesday 5 April: **Using History (Tosh, Chapter 12) and Conclusion**

Week 14 – Tuesday 12 April – **FINAL QUIZ IN CLASS**

Please note that the above lecture outline is provisional and may be subject to modification. Archival visits are planned during weeks 7-10, dates tbd. Subsequent work in the archives concerned may provide the primary sources for the source comparison.

Assessment:

Mid-term quiz	In class on Thursday 11 February	30 multiple-choice questions on material covered from the beginning of the semester. Questions may relate to either lecture material or required reading from the textbook.	10% of final mark
Book review	Due in class or in the red box outside the History Department office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 23 February	Book selection – a recent historical monograph (published 2012 or later) with referenced sources.	30% of final mark
		Review – a book review of up to 1,500 words in length (including title and any references) as if for an academic historical journal.	
Source comparison	Due in class or in the red box outside the History Department office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 12 April	Topic and question selection – e.g. How did Stalin initially respond to German invasion in June 1941?	50% of final mark
		Source selection – two different primary sources (of different types, e.g. a diary and a	

		memoir).	
		Comparison – a written comparison of up to 2,250 words in length (including title and any references) of the nature and value of the two sources in answering the question posed and noting other primary sources identified as available that would be of value in answering the question.	
Final quiz	In class on Tuesday 12 April	30 multiple-choice questions on material covered since the mid-term quiz. Questions may relate to either lecture material or required reading from the textbook.	10% of final mark

In order to pass the course you must complete BOTH the book review and source comparison.

A flat 5% of the mark will be deducted for exceeding the word limit on a piece of written work, and you will not gain credit for that material beyond the word limit.

A flat 10% will be deducted for every week or part thereof during which a piece of written work is overdue without prior agreement with the lecturer or due cause (as documented according to university requirements).

Work submitted after Tuesday 12 April will not be accepted and a mark of 0 recorded for that piece of work unless the necessary documentation explaining extenuating circumstances that is satisfactory to the university is provided. Failure to take a quiz will result in a score of 0 for the test without due documentation.

Book review:

Prior to writing your book review you should look at examples of reviews in academic journals both for style and content. The *Historical Abstracts* search engine may be a good starting point for finding book reviews.

Although you have some flexibility in the style in which you write your review, your review will be graded according to the following in the order of priority below:

- 1) The extent to which you show evidence of having read and understood the book under review and assess the strength of the argument(s) within it in the light of the sources on which it is based.
- 2) Your ability to express sustainable criticism of the book (where criticism should be both positive and negative).
- 3) The quality of your writing (including spelling, grammar and syntax).

4) Whether you have produced a book review in a style acceptable for publication in an academic History journal.

Source comparison:

Your source comparison should take the following format or include the content that would result from using the following model:

Introduction – outlining the historical question of interest (much as one might do in an essay).

Paragraph(s) – Outline of source 1 (what type of source is it, who produced it, when, why might it have been produced, to what extent can its content be corroborated and so forth).

Paragraph(s) – Outline of source 2 (what type of source is it, who produced it, when, why might it have been produced, to what extent can its content be corroborated...).

Paragraph(s) – Comparison – what are the similarities and differences between the two sources in terms of content relevant to the question being asked and use value to the historian in answering it?

Paragraph(s) – Which other sources would you want to use to corroborate or add to the two primary sources you have chosen if you were to delve deeper in to tackling the historical question you have posed?

Conclusion – Summary of the value and weaknesses of the two primary sources in answering the question and as examples of sources of their respective types.

In addition to the above content your mark will factor in whether you have appropriately referenced sources and the quality of your writing (grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation etc).

Grading:

All work will be graded using the percentages corresponding to letter grades as in the departmental grading scheme attached.

The final grade will be calculated from the percentage marks for each piece of work and not the letter grades for individual components.

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.

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:

Need help coming up with a thesis statement? Confused about the proper way to use footnotes? Just want to ask someone about your written assignment for this or any other history class? The Department of History offers small-group and individual writing support for all students registered in a History class from some of our top graduate students. Check with your instructor for the scheduled weekly drop-in times, sign-up for one of the writing workshops, or arrange to meet with our writing tutors individually. More information about this program will be posted on the Department of History web site: hist.ucalgary.ca.

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 coursepack 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). 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.
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*, 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_0.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/secretariat/privacy>

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>

Winter 2016