History 607

TOPICS IN WESTERN CANADIAN HISTORY

REGION AND NATION: THE PRAIRIE WEST IN CANADIAN HISTORY

Dr. David B. Marshall
Office SS 638  
Ph: (403) 220-3837  
e-mail: marshall@ucalgary.ca

University of Calgary  
Fall Term 2019  
Office Hours: W 12:00 – 2:00

Course Description:

This seminar is designed as an intensive course in the history and historiography of prairie Canada. British Columbia is excluded because it has a unique historiography. We will look at some of the most recent trends in topics, methodology and interpretation. Before we explore these recent trends, the first seminars will provide an overview of the historiographical foundations of the Canadian PRAIRIE west.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

-identify and discuss the major schools of thought and the influential historians in western Canadian historiography

-understand how the historiography of western (prairie) Canada has developed

-identify the emerging issues and current debates in western Canadian historiography

-write short academic journal style book reviews of approximately 750-1200 words

-research and write a historiographical paper

-analyze historical monographs
General Background Reading

Friesen, Gerald, *The Canadian Prairies: A History* (University of Toronto Press, pb)

Thompson, John Herd, *Forging the Prairie West* (Oxford University Press, pb)

Provincial Histories

Morton, W.L. *Manitoba: A History*

Waiser, Bill, *Saskatchewan: A New History*

Waiser, Bill, *A World We Have Lost: Saskatchewan Before 1905*

Palmer, Howard with Tamara, *Alberta: A New History*

van Herk, Aritha, *Mavericks: An Incorrigible History of Alberta*

Payne, Michael, Don Wetherell & Catherine Cavanaugh, eds., *Alberta Formed Alberta Transformed* 2 volumes

Other books for the weekly seminar meetings are available through a number of means:

1) Purchase through Amazon.ca or ChaptersIndigo.ca

   - other sites are possible such as Academic Book Exchange (ABE) but watch out for exchange rates and shipping costs on this site.

2) The University of Calgary –on-line access through e-brary etc. OR the University of Calgary circulation services for hard copies.

The following books have been ordered for the University of Calgary Bookstore:

Owram, Doug, *Promise of Eden: The Canadian Expansionist Movement and the Idea of the West*

Carter, Sarah, *Imperial Plots: Women, Land, and the Spadework of British Colonialism on the Canadian Prairies*

Krasowski, Sheldon, *No Surrender: The Land Remains Indigenous*

Daschuk, James, *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*
Korineck, Valerie, *Prairie Fairies: History of Queer Communities and People in Western Canada, 1930-1985*

**N.B.** Another very useful book that challenges some of the interpretation in Carter, Daschuk & Krasowski is: Hall, David J. *From Treaties to Reserves: The Federal Government and Native Peoples in territorial Alberta, 1870-1910*

### Assignments & Grading

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation</td>
<td>Dates to be determined 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reviews</td>
<td>(2 reviews @ 10% each) 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>DUE: End of term 30%</td>
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#### Description of Assignments

1. **Seminar Participation.**

   It is expected that students will participate in the seminar with vigorous debate and discussion. Merely showing up is not good enough. Students who fail to participate on a regular basis will receive a failing grade for this component of the course. In other words, it is expected that the students will carry the seminar, rather than the instructor.

   The participation grade will be based on the following criteria:

   a) knowledge and comprehension of the readings
   b) ability to discuss material in a broader historiographical context
   c) willingness to debate and consider conflicting or challenging viewpoints

2. **Seminar Presentation**

   Each student will be responsible for leading ONE seminar. They will be assigned specific readings for this purpose. Students will be responsible for introducing the topic or themes of the seminar and leading the discussion throughout the class. The introductory presentations should be no more than 15-20 minutes.
3. Book Reviews

NUMBER: 2

LENGTH: 3-5 pp. double spaced, 750-1200 words. This word limit will be strictly enforced.

Books with an asterisk * are eligible for the book reviews. Only ONE book from each topic can be selected.

It is strongly recommended that students select:

ONE of the books with an * by Sarah Carter

ONE of Krasowski, Sheldon, No Surrender: The Land Remains Indigenous OR

Daschuk, James, Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation and the Loss of Aboriginal Life

But students may select ANY book listed below with an asterix. *

4. Term Paper

Students are expected to define their own topic in consultation with the instructor. Papers can either be based on primary research—in some cases the paper can relate to a student’s proposed thesis topic— or they can be an assessment of a major historian of Western Canada or a controversial theme or issue in western Canadian historiography.

Length: 12-15 pages, including Notes & Bibliography, double-spaced, approx. 3,000–4,000 words.

Proposed Seminars:

Part I: Foundations: Western Canadian Historiography

Seminar #1 The Roots of Prairie Historiography

Owram, Doug, Promise of Eden: The Canadian Expansionist Movement and the Idea of the West


**The Writing of Western Canadian History: G.F.G. Stanley, Paul Sharp, & W.L. Morton**

Sharp, Paul, *Whoop-Up Country: The Canadian American West, 1865-1885*

Sharp, Paul, *The Agrarian Revolt in Western Canada: A Survey Showing American Parallels*

Stanley, G.F.G., *The Birth of Western Canada: A History of the Riel Rebellions*

Stanley, G.F.G., *Louis Riel*

Morton, W.L. *Manitoba: A History*

Mckillop, A.B., ed., *Contexts of Canada’s Past: Selected Essays of W. L. Morton*

**Seminar #2 The West’s Own Popular Historian and the Native Voice: Hugh Dempsey**

Dempsey, Hugh, *Crowfoot: Chief of the Blackfeet* (1972)

Dempsey, Hugh, *Charcoal’s World: The True Story of a Canadian Indian’s Last Stand* (1978)


Seminar #3 “The New Western History”: Sarah Carter


Part II: The West as Colony and the Marginalization of the Metis and Indigenous People of the Prairies

Seminar #4 The Metis Nation


*Reid, Jennifer, *Louis Riel and the Creation of Modern Canada: Mythic Discourse and the Postcolonial State*

Stanley, G.F.G. *The Birth of Western Canada: A History of the Riel Rebellions*

Bumsted, J.M. *The Red River Rebellion*

Beal, Bob & R.C. Macleod, *Prairie Fire: The 1885 North-West Rebellion*

*Ens, Gerhard, *Homeland to Hinterland: The Changing Worlds of the Red River Metis in the Nineteenth Century*

Ens, Gerhard & Joe Sawchuk, *From New Peoples to New Nations: Aspects of Metis History from the Eighteenth to the Twenty-First Centuries*

*Hogue, Michel, *Metis and the Medicine Line: Creating a Border and Dividing a People*
*Foran, Timothy, *Defining Metis: Catholic Missionaries and the Idea of Civilization in Northwestern Saskatchewan, 1845-1898*

*Macdougall, Brenda, *One of the Family: Metis Culture in Nineteenth Century Northwestern Saskatchewan*

Sprague, D.N. *Canada and the Metis, 1869-1885*

Sealy, D. Bruce & Antoine Lussier, *The Metis: Canada’s Forgotten People*

*Flanagan, Tom, *Riel and the Rebellion 1885 Reconsidered*

*Flanagan, Tom, *Louis “David” Riel*

*Stonechild, Blair & Bill Waiser, *Loyal Until Death: Indians and the North West Rebellion*

*St-Onge, Nicole, *Saint-Laurent, Manitoba: Evolving Metis identities, 1850-1914*

_Seminar #5 Treaty-Making_

*Krasowski, Sheldon, *No Surrender: The Land Remains Indigenous*

*Hall, David, *From Treaties to Reserves: The Federal Government and Native Peoples in Territorial Alberta, 1870-1905, Part One, pp. 21-92*


Miller, J.R. “Owen Glendower, Hotspur, and Canadian Indian Policy”, _Ethnohistory_, Vol. 37, No. 4, Autumn 1990


*St. Germain, Jill, *Indian Treaty-Making Policy in the United States and Canada, 1867-1877*

Taylor, Robert J. *Negotiating the Numbered Treaties: An Intellectual & Political Biography of Alexander Morris*

*Titley, Brian, *The Frontier World of Edgar Dewdney*

*Price, Richard, ed., *The Spirit of the Alberta Treaties*
Hildebrand, Walter, Sarah Carter & Dorothy First Rider, eds., *The True Spirit and Original Intent of Treaty 7*

**Seminar #6 Subjugation & Marginalization**

*Daschuk, James, *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*


Tobias, John, “Canada’s Subjugation of the Plains Cree, 1879-1885”, *Canadian Historical Review*, Vol. 64, No.4, Dec. 1983

*Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Volume 1, Part 1, Canada’s Residential Schools: The History, Part 1, Origins to 1939*


*Miller, J.R., *Shingwauk’s Vision: A History of Native Residential Schools*


*Pettipas, Katherine, Severing the Ties that Bind: Government Repression of Indigenous Religious Ceremonies on the Prairies*

Titley, Brian, *The Indian Commissioners: Agents of the State and Indian Policy in Canada’s Prairie West, 1873-1932*

Titley, Brian, *A Narrow Vision: Duncan Campbell Scott and the Administration of Indian Affairs in Canada*

*Gavigan, Shelley, Hunger, Horses, and Government Men: Criminal Law on the Aboriginal Plains, 1870-1905*

*Smith, Keith, Liberalism, Surveillance and Resistance: Indigenous Communities in Western Canada, 1877-1927*

*Lux, Maureen, Medicine that Walks: Disease, Medicine, and Canadian Plains Native People, 1880-1940*
*Burnett, Kristen, *Taking Medicine: Women’s Healing Work and Colonial Contact in Southern Alberta, 1880-1930*


Clapperton, Jonathan, “Naturalizing Race Relations: Conservation, Colonialism and the Spectacle at the Banff Indian Days”, *Canadian Historical Review*, Vol. 94, No.3 (Sept. 2013) 349-79

**Part III: Settlement and Economic Development of the West**

**Seminar #7 Farming**

*Voisey, Paul, *Vulcan: The Making of a Prairie Community*

*Den Otter, A.A., *Civilizing the West: the Galts and the development of Western Canada*

*Dick, Lyle, *Farmers “Making Good”: The Development of Abernathy District, Saskatchewan, 1880-1920*


*Eagle, John, *The Canadian Pacific Railway and the Development of Western Canada*

**Seminar #8 Ranching**

*Breen David, *The Canadian Prairie West and the Ranching Frontier, 1874-1924*

*Elofson, Warren, *Cowboys, Gentlemen and Cattle Thieves*

*Elofson, Warren, *Frontier Cattle Ranching in the Land and Times of Charlie Russell*

*Elofson, Warren, *So Far and Yet So Close: Frontier Cattle Ranching in Western Prairie Canada and the Northern Territory of Australia*

*Elofson, Warren, *Rocking P Ranch and the Second Cattle Frontier in Western Canada*

*Kelm, Mary-Ellen, A Wilder West: Rodeo in Western Canada*

**Seminar #9 Multi-culturalism**

*Swyripa, Frances, *Storied Landscapes: Ethno-Religious Identity and the Canadian Prairies*

*Swyripa, Frances, Wedded to the Cause: Ukrainian Canadian Women and Ethnic Identity, 1891-1991*

Thompson, John Herd & Frances Swyripa, eds., *Loyalties in Conflict: Ukrainians in Canada during the Great War*

*Loewen, Royden & Gerald Friesen, Immigrants in Prairie Cities: Ethnic Diversity in Twentieth Century Canada*

*Loewen, Royden, Family, Church, and Market: A Mennonite Community in the Old and the New Worlds, 1850-1930*

*Eyford, Ryan, White Settler Reserve: New Iceland and the Colonization of the Canadian West*

*Pitsula, James, Keeping Canada British: The Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Saskatchewan*

*Marshall, Alison, The Way of the Bachelor: Early Chinese Settlement in Manitoba*

*Marshall, Alison, Cultivating Connections: The Making of Chinese Prairie Canada*

*Palmer, Howard, Patterns of Prejudice: A History of Nativism in Alberta*
Seminar # 10 Politics of Protest


Morton, W.L., The Progressive Party of Canada

Sharp, Paul F., The Agrarian Revolt in Western Canada


*Banack, Clark, God’s Province: Evangelical Christianity, Political Thought, and Conservatism in Alberta

*Kendle, John, John Bracken: A Political Biography

*McNaught, Kenneth, A Prophet in Politics: A Biography of J.S. Woodsworth

*Mills, Allen, Fool for Christ: The Political Thought of J.S. Woodsworth

*Rolph, William Kirby, Henry Wise Wood of Alberta

*Rea, J. E., T. A. Crerar: A Political Life

*Ward, Norman & David Smith, Jimmy Gardiner: Relentless Liberal

*Wardhaugh, Robert, Mackenzie King and the Prairie West

*Elliott, David R. & Iris Miller, Bible Bill: A Biography of William Aberhart

*Finkel, Alvin, The Social Credit Phenomenon in Alberta

*Smith, Denis, Rogue Tory: The Life and Legend of John G. Diefenbaker

*Harrison, Trevor, Of Passionate Intensity: Right-Wing Populism and the Reform Party of Canada


*Janigan, Mary, Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark: the West Versus the Rest Since Confederation
Seminar #11 Living and Dying in the Great Depression

*Waiser, Bill, Who Killed Jackie Bates? Murder and Mercy During the Great Depression

Waiser, Bill, All Hell Can’t Stop Us: The On To Ottawa Trek and the Regina Riot


*Jones, David, Empire of Dust: Settling and Abandoning the Prairie Dry Belt

*Strikwerda, Eric, The Wages of Relief: Cities and the Unemployed in Prairie Canada, 1929-39

*Kaler, Amy, Baby Trouble in the Last Best West: Making New People in Alberta, 1905-1939

Seminar #12 The Other

*Korineck, Valerie, Prairie Fairies: History of Queer Communities and People in Western Canada, 1930-1985

Other Themes/ Titles Eligible for Review

The Early West Before 1870

Morton, A.S. History of The Canadian West to 1870

*Van Kirk, Sylvia, ‘Many Tender Ties’; Women in Fur Trade Society, 1670-1870

*den Otter, A.A., Civilizing the Wilderness: Culture and Nature in Pre-Confederation Canada and Rupert’s Land

*Peers, Laura, The Ojibwa of Western Canada, 1780-1870

*Milloy, John S., The Plains Cree: Trade, Diplomacy and War, 1790-1870

*Binnema, Theodore, Common and Contested Ground: A Human and Environmental History of the Northwestern Plains

Cities, Labour & Class

*Endicott, Stephen, *Bienfait: The Saskatchewan Miners’ Struggle of ‘31*

*Jones, Esylit, *Influenza 1918: Disease, Death and Struggle in Winnipeg*

*Artibise, Alan, *Winnipeg: A Social History of Urban Growth*

*Bercuson, *Confrontation at Winnipeg: Labour, Industrial Relations and the General Strike*

*Epp-Koop, Stefan, *We’re Going to Run This City: Winnipeg’s Political Left after the General Strike*

*McCormack, A. Ross, *Reformers, Rebels, and Revolutionaries: the Western Canadian Radical Movement, 1899-1919*

*Bright, David, *Limits of Labour: Class Formation and the Labour Movement in Calgary, 1883-1929*

Law & Order

*Macleod, R.C., *The North West Mounted Police and Law Enforcement, 1873-1905*

*Macleod, R.C., *Sam Steele: A Biography*

*Hewitt, Steve, *Riding to the Rescue: The Transformation of the RCMP in Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1914-1939*

*Erickson, Lesley, *Westward Bound: Sex, Violence, the Law and the Making of Settler Society*

Hubner, Brian, “Horse Stealing and the Borderline: The NWMP and the Control of Indian Movement, 1874-1900”, *Prairie Forum*, Vol. 20, No.2 (Fall 1995) 281-300

The Environment

*Armstrong, Christopher, Matthew Evenden & H.V. Nelles, The River Returns: An Environmental History of the Bow

*Wetherell, Donald, Wildlife, Land, and People: A Century of Change in Prairie Canada

Borderlands


*Graybill, Andrew, Policing the Great Plains: Rangers, Mounties, and the North American Frontier, 1875-1910
The following scale will be used to determine final grades. Grades will be reported to the registrar as letter grades only.

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<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>63-66</td>
<td>Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>56-59</td>
<td>Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
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<td>50-55</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements</td>
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Writing:
All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly referenced.

Red Box Policy:
Essays and other assignments may be dropped into the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name, and 4) your student number. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped 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 at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- 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, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works
- Using 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 is reported to the Faculty of Arts’ associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the University of Calgary Calendar, Section K. 
https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

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Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):
The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

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 ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

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

Other Useful Information:
- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

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
• Safewalk

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