

Canadian Studies (CNST) 333 – Lecture 01
Comparison of Canadian and American Cultures
Winter 2014
TR 9:30 – 10:45

Instructor: Dan Balkwill

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00; or by appointment.

Course Description

This course uses an interdisciplinary and historical approach to compare Canadian and United States cultures. We will examine cultural similarities and differences in both countries from the pre-colonial period through the twentieth century, with specific attention to geographic, economic, political, ethnic and religious themes. Key topics to be explored include the roles of major historical events to regional and national identities, First Nations experiences, nation-building, immigration, popular culture, health care, environmental policy and globalization.

Objectives of the Course

To introduce students to theories of Canadian and U.S. cultural development.

To broaden student perspectives toward Canadian and American cultural similarities and differences through time.

To foster self-awareness and an appreciation for cultural diversity.

To introduce students to interdisciplinary resources and methods for academic inquiries.

To improve the research and writing skills of students.

Textbooks and Readings:

Grabb, Edward and James Curtis, eds. *Regions Apart: The Four Societies of Canada and the United States* (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Additional readings from online sources will be assigned for class discussion.

Assignments

Assignment # 1 – Primary Document Comparison - due 6 February 2014 (15%)

For this assignment, students will use online databases to acquire two complementary primary documents (or texts); one document from a Canadian source and one document from a U.S. source. Selected documents can range widely, from diary entries to newspaper clippings, cartoons, paintings, statistics, speeches or statutes. In 2-3 pages (500-750 words), students will describe their chosen documents' contents and contexts, and explain how their documents help to reveal cultural similarities and/or differences between Canada and the U.S.

Assignment # 2 – Comparative Essay - due 8 April 2014 (35%)

For this assignment, students will use multiple primary and secondary sources to write an 8-10 page (2000-2500 word) research paper that compares Canadian and American cultures respecting a specific topic. Students' Comparative Essay topics must differ from their Primary Document Analysis topics. Students should consider how their own primary sources support or challenge material in their secondary sources, assigned readings and lectures. Strong essays will be well-organized, well-documented and clearly-written, with a range of sources and attention to material covered in lectures.

Students who need help with their writing are encouraged to visit the campus Writing Support Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS102. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed from the drop box the following morning and stamped with the CURRENT day's date, then placed in the instructor's mailbox.

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.

Exams

The mid-term and final exams will include multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering textbook readings and material covered in class.

Midterm Exam #1 – 11 February 2014 (15%)

Midterm Exam #2 – 18 March 2014 (15%)

Final Exam – TBA (20%)

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

The final is closed-book.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Grading System

| | Grading Scale |
|-----|---------------|
| A+ | 96-100 |
| A | 90-95.99 |
| A - | 85-89.99 |
| B+ | 80-84.99 |
| B | 75-79.99 |
| B- | 70-74.99 |
| C+ | 65-69.99 |
| C | 60-64.99 |
| C- | 55-59.99 |
| D+ | 53-54.99 |
| D | 50-52.99 |
| F | 0-49 |

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

To be provided in class and available on Blackboard.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Computers, tablets and cell phones are only allowed in this class for the purpose of taking notes. Recording devices are prohibited to respect copyright, protect student privacy and encourage in-class discussions.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact them if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.