

McMaster University
Graduate Programme in History
History 755
History, Heritage and Memory: How the Past is Used

Course Outline and Syllabus, 2015

Introduction

In this reading seminar students will explore the development of several varieties of popular historical consciousness in Canada. Public memory and popular history will be broadly conceived to include festivals, holidays, historic sites and parks, parades, protests, pioneer villages, commemorations, anniversaries, museums, naming, monuments, re-enactments, historical societies, film, theatre, radio and television productions as well as more conventional forms such as school texts, novels and works of popular history intended for a wide audience. The focus will be upon the consumption as well as the production of popular history, upon the multiple meanings created by the interaction between audiences and authors, and the ways in which authority and entertainment come to terms.

Recent studies have urged historians to look more closely at the kinds of history people do know rather than the history they don't know when quizzed by experts. Through the reading of popular histories, public representations, dramatizations, commemorations and recreations of the Canadian past the seminar will ask: How do communities remember? What do they choose to remember? How do communities make and remake their public historical consciousness? How does popular memory change over time? What keeps a highly selective past alive in memory?

Format and Activities

Our understanding will be developed in weekly seminar discussions, through “field” observation, a research essay, and a symposium. Typically we will read about some aspect of the subject, plunge in and get some experience “doing it” ourselves, and then draw back through some more general reading to obtain a deeper perspective. Discussion topics will be selected from the list that follows. All members of the seminar will not necessarily be reading the same texts each week. Frequently the objective will be to bring together different perspectives to approach the subject from various points of view.

The course will operate on three different levels which will interact with and inform one another: 1. weekly seminar readings and discussions; 2. a reading circle and 3. a short research paper. The field of Public Memory in Canada, the United States and elsewhere has flourished in recent years. The reading circle will explore a selection of these titles mingling Canadian and mainly US scholarship. Collectively and cumulatively this reading will provide a deep background and more fully developed arguments to supplement the literature assigned for the weekly seminar topics. A short test at the end of term will evaluate understanding of these books.

As is the case with other histories Public Memory History is best learned by doing it. A short research paper, selected in consultations with the course director, provides an opportunity for concepts to be tested, critiqued and new avenues explored. Emphasis in these papers will be placed upon the local or regional application of key concepts in the field. Papers will be given at a symposium at the end of term where presentations and participation will be evaluated.

At the conclusion of the course participants will have a critical insight into current scholarship on key topics in the field, familiarity with approximately a dozen major works, and they will have applied lessons learned from readings and discussions on individual projects.

Evaluation

Students will be expected to prepare a research essay, participate in weekly discussions, complete the reading circle and carry out a small "field project." The essay, which will be on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor, will be worth 30% of the final grade. These essays, posted and available to all members of the class, will form the basis of a symposium at the end of the term.

Weekly discussion will normally flow from the itemized readings on the list. A short "field project" at the start of the course will count for 10% in the evaluation. The reading circle text at the conclusion of the course (a take home quiz) will be worth 20% of the final grade. Class participation and involvement in the symposium will comprise 30% of the final grade.

Field Project	10%
Reading Circle	20%
Research Paper	30%
Class and Symposium Participation	40%

Weekly seminar participation will be evaluated on a three point scale: 1 point for attending; 2 for occasional interventions, and 3 for sustained and relevant discussion indicating broad familiarity with the readings. Absences from class due to illness or other legitimate reasons can be compensated for (ie: 2 points) by the submission of a short 1-2 page paper summarizing the week's readings.

Instructor:

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 Office: 1:30-3:30 Thursday
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Compliance Addendum

Statement on Academic Integrity:

The university has established a comprehensive policy regarding Academic Integrity that runs to some 22 pages. This is an indication of how prevalent infractions have become, the intricacy of the procedures, and the gravity of the consequences. McMaster University policy, procedures and guidelines on academic integrity are to be found at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>.

All members of all courses, graduate and undergraduate, must read this document to familiarize themselves with the university's expectations of proper academic performance and the consequences in the event this policy is violated. Very briefly the following are some of the most commonly occurring forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism.
2. The submission of someone else's work as your own.
3. Allowing someone to copy your work for submission.
4. Submitting the same assignment in two courses.
5. Improper collaboration in group assignments.
6. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

The formal procedures for dealing with this behaviour and the penalties to be applied are spelled out in considerable detail in the Academic Integrity document.

E-Mail Policy:

The Course Instructor will answer e-mail queries usually within 48 hours. But extended exchanges and permanent e-mail conversations should not be expected. Communications of that sort should be conducted in seminars or pre-arranged office meetings. In keeping with Departmental Policy to protect confidentiality and confirm identities, the Course Instructor will only respond to e-mail from McMaster University addresses.

Policy Regarding the Late Submission of Work

As explained in the syllabus, the research papers prepared for this course will form the basis of a symposium to be held at the conclusion of the term. Draft papers will be distributed one week in advance to all members for discussion at an all day seminar. Final revised versions will be due one week following the symposium. Given this format it is difficult to imagine a penalty for late submission of the draft as it would prevent class comment, one of the major objectives of the course. The appropriate penalty for unduly late submission of the discussion draft (which would hinder critical evaluation by other members of the class) would be no discussion of the work not submitted with a corresponding deduction in the participation evaluation. Late submission of the final draft will result in a 1/2 grade reduction, ie: a B+ would become a B.

Readings and Reading Circle

We will refer to the following three books regularly. These books are difficult and somewhat dated, but they certainly provide a substantial basis for discussion:

David Lowenthal, The Past is a Foreign Country (Cambridge)
 Michael Kammen, Mystic Chords of Memory (Vintage)
 Hobsbawm and Ranger, The Invention of Tradition (Cambridge)

Occasionally we will dip into a translation and selection of the Pierre Nora multi-volume collection of essays, Realms of Memory, 3 vols. We will also make regular use of a recent collection of essays on Public Memory edited by Nicole Neatby and Peter Hodgins, Settling and Unsettling Memories: Essays in Canadian Public History (Toronto, 2012) - cited as Neatby and Hodgins Settling and Unsettling in the reading list below.

Every week, in addition to the seminar reading assigned, each member of the class will be responsible for reading one of these books following a schedule to be handed out. These books are available in the McMaster and other libraries and some of the instructors copies will be kept on reserve in the Department office for consultation. Each week our collective understanding will build until by the end of the term we will have acquired a common body of knowledge.

B. Anderson, Imagined Communities
 C. Berger Sense of Power
 J. Bodnar, Remaking America
 C. Coates and C Morgan, Heroines and History
 D. Francis, National Dreams
 A. Gordon, The Hero and the Historians, Jacques Cartier
 N. Knowles, Inventing the Loyalists
 I. McKay, Quest of the Folk
 H.V. Nelles, The Art of Nation-Building
 M. Ozouf, Festivals and the French Revolution
 I. Radforth, Royal Spectacle
 R. Rudin, Founding Fathers
 J. Vance, Death So Noble
 Conrad et al, Canadians and their Pasts

Seminar Syllabus

1. CHOOSING FATHERS

C. Berger Sense of Power 1-109

N. Knowles, Inventing the Loyalists

R. Rudin, Founding Fathers

Peter Pope, The Many Landfalls of John Cabot

P. Groulx, Pièges de la Mémoire

R. Rudin, "The Champlain-DeMonts Tercentenary," and Greg Marquis, "Celebrating Champlain in the Loyalist City," Acadiensis, Vol. 33, 2004, pp. 3-43.

A. Gordon, "Heroes, History and Two Nationalisms," JCHA, Vol 10, 1999

R. Rudin, Remembering and Forgetting in Acadie

2. BRAVE WOMEN

Colin Coates and Cecilia Morgan, Heroines and History

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Evangeline: A Tale of Acadia

N.S. Griffiths, The Contexts of Acadian History

M.B. Taylor, "The Poetry and Prose of History: Evangeline and the Historians of Nova Scotia," Journal of Canadian Studies, Vol 23, 1988, pp. 46-67

Ruth McKenzie, Laura Secord, the Legend and the Lady

E.A. Currie, The Story of Laura Secord

DCB, IX (Ingersoll)

G. Ingram, "The Story of Laura Secord Revisited," Ontario History, LVII, 1965

Cecilia Morgan, "Of Slender Frame and Delicate Appearance: The Placing of Laura Secord in the Narratives of Canadian Loyalist History," JCHA, Vol 5, 1994

A. Greer, Mohawk Saint

Coates and Morgan essays in Neatby and Hodgins, Settling and Unsettling

3. DEAD GENERALS

S. Schama: Dead Certainties, Many Deaths of General Wolfe

DCB III (Wolfe), DCB V (Brock)

Makers of Canada, Wolfe, Brock

R. Malcomson, "Upper Canada Preserved: Isaac Brock at Queenston," The Beaver, Feb/Mar. 1993, pp. 4-15

I. McCulloch, "Montcalm at Quebec, 1759," The Beaver, Oct/Nov. 1992, pp. 4-15

Berger, The Sense of Power, pp. 233-265

4. REFLECTIONS

David Lowenthal, The Past is a Foreign Country , 1-184, 228-53, 342-74

Michael Kammen, Mystic Chords of Memory , 1-92

Hobsbawm and Ranger, The Invention of Tradition , 1-42

Pierre Nora, Realms of Memory, Vol 1, Forward, Between Memory and History,

Paul Connerton, How Societies Remember

Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities

5. LEST WE ...

J. Vance, Death So Noble

Maria Tippett, Art and the Service of War

R. Shipley, To Mark Our Place

P. Fussell, The Great War in Modern Memory chs. 1, 9

P. Buitenhuis, The Great War of Words, ch.12

J. Winter, Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning, pp. 1-116

Donald Smith, "Towering Monuments, The Beaver, Feb/Mar 1990, p. 46-9.

J. Vance, "The Great Response: The Struggle to Create a National War Memorial," The Beaver, Oct/Nov 1996.

K. McPherson, "Carving Out the Past: The Canadian Nurses Association War Memorial" [HS]

M. Kammen, Mystic Chords of Memory, ch. 4, pp. 101-131

6. WHOSE WAR IS THIS?

Death by Moonlight Video

Anne Collins, "The Valour and the Uproar: The Battle over the Valour and the Horror," Saturday Night, May, 1993, pp. 44-49, 72-6

Christopher Moore, "Writers of History: Valour, Horror and Freedom," The Beaver, Dec 92/Jan93, pp. 54-56

D. Bercuson, Valour and Horror Revisited

Kammen, Mystic Chords, ch. 4, pp. 101-131

E.T. Linenthal, History Wars

7. PARDON ME: RIEL

T. Flanagan, Riel and the Rebellion: 1885 Reconsidered 2nd edition

T. Flanagan, Louis David Riel Prophet of the New World

J. M Bumsted, The Red River Rebellion

B. Stonechild, B. Waiser, Loyal Till Death: Indians and the Northwest Rebellion

H. Bowsfield, Louis Riel: The Rebel and the Hero

F.L. Barron and J. Waldram, eds, 1885 and After

G.F.G. Stanley, The Birth of Western Canada

W.L. Morton, Begg's Red River Journal

D. Owram, "The Myth of Louis Riel," CHR, Vol. 43, 1982

D. Morton, The Last War Drum

G. Enns, Homeland to Hinterland

B. Beal, R. MacLeod, Prairie Fire: The 1885 North-West Rebellion

M. Siggins, Riel: A Life of Revolution

J.K. Howard, Strange Empire

8. THE IMAGINED INDIAN

D. Cole, Captured Heritage

D. Smith, From the Land of Shadows

D. Smith, Long Lance

L. Dickson, Wilderness Man

E. Bird, ed., Dressing in Feathers, essays 1,2,3,4,5, 11, 13

D. Francis, The Imaginary Indian

I. Karp & S. Lavine, Exhibiting Cultures, chs. 14, 20
 S. Krech, The Ecological Indian
 Maria Tippett, Bill Reid: The Making of an Indian
 Charlotte Grey, Flint and Feather
 V. Strong-Boag and C. Gerson, Paddling Her Own Canoe
 Julia D. Harrison et al, The Spirit Sings: Artistic Traditions of Canada's First Peoples
 Bryan Palmer, Canada's 1960's, pp. 367-414

9. NATIONAL DREAMS

D. Francis, National Dreams
 M. Dawson, The Mountie: From Dime Novel to Disney
 K. Walden, Visions of Order: The Canadian Mounties in Symbol and Myth
 P. Buckner, "What Ever Happened to the British Empire," JCHA, Vol 4, 1993
 J. Igartua, The Other Quiet Revolution
 Bryan Palmer, Canada's 1960's, pp. 3-26, 415-30.

10. CANADIANS' HISTORIES

The Canadians and Their Pasts Website, [http://www.canadians and their pasts.ca](http://www.canadiansandtheirpasts.ca)
 G. Freisen et al, "Canadians, Historians and Usable Pasts."
 J. Letourneau, "Québécois et Canadiens face au passé : similitudes et dissemblances"
 Anthony Smith, Myths and Memories of the Nation
 D. Thelen and F Hoxie, Discovering America
 Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen, The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life
 D. Lowenthal, The Past is a Foreign Country, pp. 185-262
 Essays by Osborne, Dick, Mullally Nelles and Hodgins, in Neatby and Hodgins, Settling and Unsettling

11. REGIONAL IDENTITIES

Ian McKay, "Tartanism Triumphant: The Construction of Scottishness in Nova Scotia, 1933-1954," Acadiensis, XXI, Spring, 1992, pp. 5-47
 - "History and the Tourist Gaze: The Politics of Commemoration in Nova Scotia, 1935-1964," Acadiensis, Vol XXII, Spring, 1993, pp. 102-138
 - "Among the Fisherfolk: J.F.B. Livesay and the Invention of Peggy's Cove," Journal of Canadian Studies, Vol 23, 1988, pp. 68-85
 Ian McKay, The Quest of the Folk, pp. xi-151 [R]
 Jacques Mathieu & Jacques Lacoursière, Les Mémoires Québécoises
 Musée de la Civilisation, Fragments d'Identité
 Musée de la Civilisation, Memories/Mémoires
 Doug Owram, The Promise of Eden
 R. D. Francis, Images of the West: Perceptions of the Prairies
 Hugh Dempsey, The Golden Age of the Canadian Cowboy
 Donna Livingstone, Cowboy Spirit
 Hobsbawm and Ranger, The Invention of Tradition, pp. 15-100
 P. Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest

The Oxford History of the American West, chapters 19-23

K. Walden, Visions of Order: The Canadian Mounties in Symbol and Myth

R. D. Francis, Images of the West: Perceptions of the Prairies

Lowenthal, The Past, chs. 6-7, pp. 263-412

Essays by McKay, and Neatby in Neatby and Hodgins, Settling and Unsettling

12. PLACES OF MEMORY

C.J. Taylor, Negotiating the Past 32-137

G. Killan, Preserving Ontario's Heritage

Carl Benn, Historic Fort York

E.T. Linenthal, Sacred Ground

Alan Gordon, "Heritage and Authenticity: The Case of Ontario's Sainte-Marie –among-the-Hurons," CHR, Vol 85, 2003, pp. 507-31.

D. Lowenthal, The Heritage Crusade

P. Jasen, Wild Things

K. Dubinsky, The Second Greatest Disappointment

M. Kammen, Mystic Chords of Memory, p. 375-530

National Historic Sites and Monuments Board, System Plan

Lowenthal, The Past, Ch 5, pp. 185-262

Essay by Phillips in Neatby and Hodgins, Settling and Unsettling

13. STONED AND BRONZED

Alan Gordon, Making Public Pasts

Stephen Davis, "Empty Eyes, Marble Hand: The Confederate Monument and the South," Journal of Popular Culture, Vol. 16, 1982, pp. 2-21

G. Mosse, "Cearsarism, Circuses, and Monuments," Journal of Contemporary History, Vol. 6, 1971, pp. 167-82

M. Warner, Joan of Arc

M. Warner, Monuments and Maidens

Toronto Civic Sculpture

C. Moore, "A Twentieth Century Hall of Fame," The Beaver, Dec1994/January 1995, pp. 70-2.

14. COMMEMORATIONS

Hobsbawm and Ranger, The Invention of Tradition, 101-209, 263-307

T.J. Lears, "The Concept of Cultural Hegemony," American Historical Review, Vol. 90, 1985, pp. 567-93

John Bodnar, Remaking America

J.R. Gillis, ed., Commemorations

Mona Ozouf, Festivals and the French Revolution

David Waldstreicher, In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes

H.V. Nelles, The Art of Nation Building

Ron Rudin, Founding Fathers

R. Cupido, "Patriots and Pageants: The Diamond Jubilee of Confederation and the Uses of Public History," JCHA, Vol 9, 1998

Pierre Nora, Realms of Memory, Vol 3, Ch 17, The Era of Commemoration.

15. IDENTITY IN THE STREETS

I. Radforth, Royal Spectacle

Kealy and Palmer, Dreaming of What Might Be, pp. 277-329

S. Davis, Parades and Power: Street Theatre in Philadelphia

G.S. Kealey, "The Orange Order in Toronto: Religious Riot and the Working Class," in Essays in Canadian Working Class History, 13-35; see also, Toronto Workers Respond to Industrial Capitalism, 98-123

M. Cottrell, "St. Patrick's Day Parades in Nineteenth Century Toronto: A Study of Immigrant Adjustment and Elite Control," Histoire Sociale, 49, 1992, pp. 57-74

Keith Walden, "Respectable Hooligans: Male Toronto College Students Celebrate Hallowe'en, 1884-1910," CHR, LXVIII, 1987, pp. 1-34

M. Ryan, "The American Parade," in L. Hunt, ed., The New Cultural History, pp.131-53

Robert Rutherford, "Canada's August Festival: Communitas, Liminality and Social Memory," CHR, Vol 77, June 1996, pp. 221-49

C. Heron and S. Penfold, "The Craftmen's Spectacle" Labour Day Parades in Canada,"[HS]

K. Walden, Becoming Modern in Toronto

Ron Rudin, "Marching and Memory in Early Twentieth Century Quebec: La Fete Dieu, la Saint-Jean Baptiste, and le Monument Laval," JCHA, 1Vol 10, 1999

Bryan Palmer, Canada's 1960's, p. 181-210

16. MUSEUMS

Mike Wallace, Mickey Mouse History

Kammen, Mystic Chords, chs. 16, 17, 18.

I. Karp & S. Lavine, eds, Exhibiting Cultures, chs 1, 6, 18

H. Linenthal, History Wars

L. Dickson, The Museum Makers

C.T. Currelly, I Brought the Ages Home

K. Hudson, Museums of Influence

K. Hudson, A Social History of Museums

P.K. Wood, "Collecting and Creating Canada," Acadiensis, Vol XXIV, Spring 1995, pp.135-141

17. HISTORIANS' HISTORY

R Rudin, Making History in Twentieth Century Quebec

S. Gagnon, Quebec and Its Historians

S. Gagnon, Quebec and Its Historians: The Twentieth Century

C. Berger, The Writing of Canadian History

Jack Granatstein, Who Killed Canadian History?

A.B. McKillop, "Who Killed Canadian History," CHR, Vol 80, 1999, pp. 269-300.

Bryan Palmer, "Of Silences and Trenches: A Dissident View of Granatstein's Meaning," CHR, Vol 80, 1999, pp. 676-686

M. Bliss, "Privatising the Mind: The Sundering of Canadian History," Journal of Canadian Studies, 26, 1991-2, pp. 5-17

D. Owsram, "Narrow Circles: The Historiography of Recent Canadian Historiography," National History, Vol 1, 1997, pp. 5-21

G. Carr, "Harsh Sentences: Appealing the Strange Verdict of Who Killed Canadian History,"

American Review of Canadian Studies, 1998, pp. 167-76
Globe and Mail Symposium on Canadian History
 Fernand Ouellet, The Socialization of Quebec Historiography since 1960
 Jean-Marie Fecteau, "Between Scientific Enquiry and the Search for a Nation: Quebec
 Historiography as seen by Ronald Rudin," and response by Ronald Rudin, CHR, Vol 80, 1999,
 pp. 641-75
 J. Létourneau, Passer à l'avenir
 M.B. Taylor, Promoters, Patriots and Partisans
Canadian Historical Review, Vol LI, No 1 1970
Canadian Historical Review, Vol 76, No 3 1995
 L. Dyck, "A Growing Necessity for Canada," CHR, 82, 2001, 223
 B. McKillop, Pierre Berton

18. HISTORICAL FICTION

Margaret Atwood, Alias Grace
 Jane Urquhart, Away, The Whirlpool
 Guy Vanderhaeghe, The Englishman's Boy, The Last Crossing
 Michael Ondaatje, The English Patient
 Douglas Glover, The Life and Times of Captain N, Elle.
 Michael Crummey, River Thieves
 Wayne Johnston, Colony of Unrequited Dreams
 Hulan essay in Neatby and Hodgins, Settling and Unsettling
 H. Wylie ed., Speaking in the Past Tense, Vanderhaeghe essay

19. INVENTING TRADITION

Kammen, Mystic Chords, Chs 14, 15, coda pp. 444-530
 E. Hobsbawm, The Invention of Tradition, pp. 263-307
 L.E. Schmidt, "The Commercialization of the Calendar" Journal of American History, 78,
 1991, pp. 887-916
 Stephen Nissenbaum, The Battle for Christmas
 Penne Restad, Christmas in America
 Daniel Miller, Unwrapping Christmas
 Leigh Schmidt, Consumer Rites
 Nick Rogers, Halloween

20. LOCAL HISTORY

J. Weaver, Hamilton: An Illustrated History
 M. Houghton, The Hamiltonians
 C. Johnston, The Head of the Lake
 M.F. Campbell, The Mountain and the City
 W. Roberts, All the Our Hands Have Done
 City of Hamilton, Culture and Recreation, Hamilton Civic Museums