

AP/HIST 3580.06A York University
“Twentieth Century Canada”

2020-2021

Course Director: Professor Jennifer A. Stephen

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Description:

The purpose of this course is to explore the social, economic and political contours of Canada during the twentieth century. We will pay particular attention to national identity and celebrations, regional and provincial distinctiveness, immigration and multiculturalism, Indigenous-Newcomer relations, and experiences of systemic racism, state violence, and gender and class based relations of power.

Attention to imperialism, internal colonialism, continentalism and nation formation is critical to our understanding of where Canada has situated itself in global terms over the past one hundred years. We will also place special emphasis on the impact of war on twentieth-century Canadian society and the ways that it has served to both divide and unite the country.

Another important dimension of this course is to explore age as a category of analysis. How has childhood changed throughout the century, and how can we assess generations within the context of the 20th century? What are the differences between those who came of age in the early 1940s and those who entered the adult world in the early 1960s? How do generations cut across twentieth-century Canadian history, and what were some of the defining characteristics of the Baby Boom generation, suburbanites in the 1950s, and the beneficiaries of the post-WW 2 Welfare State?

Finally, we will consider the expansion of the national security state, from the containment of indigenous people within reserves/residential schools/60’s Scoop through to the surveillance of labour, socialist, aboriginal, student and feminist and other activists throughout the 20th century.

Grade Breakdown:

Reading responses	20%
Essay 1	20%
Essay 2 Outline	pass/fail
Essay 2	20%
Final examination	25%
Participation	15%

HIST 3580 is being offered as a mixed remote course for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lecture recordings will be asynchronous, posted to the course website on Moodle; synchronous tutorials/enhanced course drop-ins will be held on Zoom at regularly scheduled meeting times.