

**CNST 333**  
**Comparison of Canadian and American Cultures**  
**Fall 2016**  
**M/W/F 10:00 – 10:50 am**  
**Place TBD**

**Instructor:** Lyndsay Campbell  
**Contact:** 403 220 8889 / lcampbe@ucalgary.ca  
**Office:** SS 650; MFH 4341  
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 11-1 in SS 650 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course will explore similarities and differences between Canadian and American cultures, focusing on particular historical and contemporary topics, including gun control, the regulation of drugs and alcohol and federal elections. To understand how the issues have been understood in their socio-cultural, political and legal dimensions, we will look at a variety of kinds of texts – from letters to newspapers to legal cases to films to blogs and other websites. We will also consider the theories, methods and perspectives we use to compare cultures.

### **Course Objectives**

Students will increase their knowledge of Canadian and American cultures and will learn to take critical approaches to culturally important “problems,” historically and as they unfold today. Students will improve their ability to analyze the perspectives that they themselves and other commentators take to these problems, perspectives that are themselves culturally rooted. Students will also improve their analytical and communication skills, particularly their writing.

### **Prerequisites and Co-requisites**

None.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

The following textbooks are required for the course. They should be available at the University Bookstore and from online vendors.

Edward Grabb and James Curtis, *Regions Apart: The Four Societies of Canada and the United States*, 2nd ed. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2010. Please buy this edition, rather than the 2005 one, as we will be focusing on current events.

David M. Thomas and David N. Biette, *Canada and the United States: Differences that Count*, 4th ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014.

A number of other texts, both scholarly and popular, will be assigned throughout the term as well. These texts will be made available on D2L.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

- Short assignment (15%), due Friday, September 30, 2016 at 10 am, on what Canadian and American students study when they take courses in Canadian and American studies at universities in Canada and the United States
- Midterm (20%), Wednesday, October 12, 2016, on readings thus far
- Election bash (10%), Monday, November 7 and Wednesday, November 9, 2016: in-class analytical discussion of U.S. federal election, before and after (marks are for participation)
- Term paper (25%), Monday, November 14, 2016 at 10 am, on a topic to be chosen from a list supplied by the instructor
  - Students may have an automatic extension to Monday, November 21, 2016 at 10 am, but if they take this extension, they may receive little or no feedback on their papers.
  - Students may choose to submit a rough draft to the instructor for feedback. If you choose to do so, you must submit your rough draft by Monday, November 7, 2016 at 10 am. Rough drafts will not be graded, but the instructor will endeavour to offer constructive feedback.
- Final exam (30%), registrar-scheduled exam period, on all course material

#### Written Assignments:

D2L dropboxes will be set up for the submission of written work.

For information about the required format for a history research paper please see “The History Student’s Handbook: A Short Guide to Writing History Essays,” available at <http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook1.pdf>.

#### Examinations:

Students may bring with them into the midterm and final exams one sheet of paper with notes.

#### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes**

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

#### **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.

## **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. Normally work will be returned to students in class. Other arrangements can be made if need be.

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

## **Ethical Research**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must undergo ethics review. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required. Although some history courses may involve human subjects, it is not anticipated that any research involving human subjects will be performed in this course.

## **Schedule of Readings**

Primary and secondary readings will be posted on D2L. The textbooks will be read over the term, beginning in the first week or two of the course.

## **Internet and Electronic Device Information**

Students may use their computers in class for taking notes, following the PowerPoint outlines of lectures, and other purposes related to the class. You may not record the class without the instructor's permission. Cell phones are not to be used for calls, texting or purposes unrelated to the class.

## **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](mailto: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.

**Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist** - For departmental updates and notifications

**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:**

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
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](http://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/](http://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](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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>  
*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>

*Fall 2016*