

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Tyrants: Historical Profiles in Oppression and Resistance

Course Number and Section

HISTORY

2712F 550

Instructor Name(s): Tim Compeau

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course explores tyranny in human history, from ancient to modern times, with a focus on the historical development of the concept in Europe and global empires. It will explore the evolution of the concept of the tyrant, the idea of legitimate vs illegitimate rule, and the resistance and agency of oppressed peoples.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- identify and explain the characteristics of oppressive regimes
- understand the various uses and abuses of the term “tyrant” in scholarly and popular discourse.
- grasp the motivation and justification for tyrannical behaviour and understand why people support oppressive regimes.
- understand modes of resistance and explain why some movements fail where others succeed.
- connect events from the past to current political and social issues.
- express ideas and arguments clearly and concisely both orally and in writing.
- write and properly format an essay that uses primary and secondary evidence to support a thesis statement.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All readings available through the library.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Ongoing	15

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Film Review	10/05/26	20
Essay Proposal	10/28/26	5
Essay	11/27/26	30
In-Class Primary Source Assignment	11/11/26	10
In-Class Essay	12/07/26	20

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.