

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Historian's Craft**

Course Number and Section

HISTORY

3801E 550

Instructor Name(s): A. Bell

Instructor Email(s): abell44@uwo.ca

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:

History 3801E is a seminar course that tries to answer two questions: what is History, and why does it matter? The Historian's Craft is a capstone course in your career as a History student, but it also asks you to question and evaluate the way you understand all your undergraduate work, and your experience outside the boundaries of academic study. Who creates knowledge? How is it used or misused? What is true, how do we know, and what do we do in the face of the limits of knowledge? What gets left out of our accounts of the past, and how can we fix this?

This course guides students through a history of how histories have been written, along with a survey of changing historiographical methods. We combine theoretical knowledge with practice in a series of skill-building workshops, working in digital source repositories and in traditional archives. Individual year-long independent research projects based on primary source material will be published on our website. Students will end the course with a much broader understanding of how history works, and how knowledge of the past continues to be vital to our understandings of the world today.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the broad sweep of the history of writing history, and changing historiographical methods;
2. Develop close readings skills that will equip them for advanced study in history, law or education
3. Improve their writing skills; their critical and analytical faculties; their own authentic voice; their ability to develop, discuss, and defend their ideas in person and in writing;
4. Plan and execute an independent research project, create and manage timelines and submit assignments within the deadline window;
5. Conduct original research using primary and secondary materials, and present their research findings effectively in writing and in class;
6. Increase their understanding of how current global events are rooted in the historical past; understand the value of historical inquiry to the present; engage with each other and politically as historians.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

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Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Field Trip Workshops		20
Midterm	06/11/2026	10
Research Proposal	30/11/2026	10
Research outcome		10
Exhibits		10
Participation		20
Final Exam		20

Sunday, August 9, 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.