

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Historical Fantasies: The Uses and Abuses of the Past in Popular Culture**

Course Number and Section

HISTORY

3812F 550

Instructor Name(s): Tim Compeau

Instructor Email(s): tcompea@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:

This course explores misconceptions, distortions, and manipulations of history. From eccentric popular television shows to racist or nationalist distortions of the past, students will confront an array of erroneous yet pervasive misunderstandings of history. The course examines case studies in the abuse of history, the creation of usable pasts, and the role of false narratives in shaping historical events. Students will apply the historical method to confront the challenge of pseudohistory in popular media.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- understand the differences between history and pseudohistory and how these ideas can influence the formation of identity and historical consciousness.
- connect historical events and their varied interpretations to current political and social issues.
- apply the historical method to challenge erroneous assumptions, misunderstandings, and deliberate distortions of the past.
- understand the dangers of historical manipulation and distortion.
- refine their ability to analyze primary source texts, images, and artifacts
- refine their research skills and solve research problems to determine the essential components of the argument, organize the parts of their essay, and draw conclusions.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All material available through the library.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Ongoing	25
Seminar	Multiple Dates	5

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Essay Proposal	10/08/26	5
Essay	11/03/26	40
In-Class Assignment	12/03/26	25

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.