

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Histories of Love**

Course Number and Section:

HISTORY

1815G 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Amy Bell

Instructor Email(s): abell44@uwo.ca

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

Course Description:

What is love? How do we know? How have concepts and expressions of love changed over time? This course will explore these questions using historiographical tools from the broader field of the history of the emotions. Beginning with the debates over how historians can find evidence of emotions in history, the course will examine some of the primary sources associated with the histories of different kinds of love: love letters, films, sentimental jewelry, photographs, magazines, political speeches, sermons and medical treatises. Each will reveal an aspect of the history of love, how it was understood by people in the past and how it can be interpreted by historians today. We will also consider how a history of love adds to the current histories of families, medicine, politics, and war. Examples will focus on North America and the United Kingdom from 1800 to the present.

This first-year course is designed to offer a foundation in the basics of historical analysis: how to read a scholarly article, how to analyze a primary source, how to compare historical events and themes across time and space, how to write a convincing argument, and how to recognize and appreciate the complexities, vulnerabilities and passions of people from the past.

Learning Outcomes:

The course is designed to help you:

1. Recognize and define major themes in recent scholarship on histories of the emotions and how they relate to other fields of study;
2. Develop the close readings skills that will equip you for advanced study in history, law or education (readings and responses);
3. Improve your writing skills; your ability to organize your time and meet deadlines; your critical and analytical faculties; your ability to develop, discuss, and defend your ideas in person and in writing (responses, tutorials, research assignments);
4. Conduct original research using primary and secondary materials, and present your research findings effectively through written assignments and in class (research assignments, tutorials and essay);
5. Consider the contemporary political and intellectual importance of engaging with histories of the emotions; and

6. Set your own learning objectives based on your approach to the material and aims for the course.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There are no required texts to be purchased for this class. The weekly readings are available either via the hyperlink in the syllabus, or on OWL.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		40%
Family Photography Proposal		15%
Family Photography Essay		20%
Final Exam		25%

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

Friday, January 24, 2025