

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Monsters: A Human History**

**Course Number and Section:**

HISTORY

1819F 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Nina Reid-Maroney

**Instructor Email(s):** nreidmar@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:

This course offers a hands-on introduction to the study and the practice of History, using historically constructed ideas of monsters and concepts of the monstrous as our unifying theme. Our course takes in a range of topics across time and place. Using primary sources drawn from varied global histories and political contexts, the course examines shifting ideas of “the monstrous” and asks what the monstrous reveals about the past. How can studying monsters help us to understand changing concepts of nature, gender, race, reason, spectacle, belief, power, modernity, and ultimately, what makes us human?

Using workshops with archival, print, and digital sources, secondary readings, lectures, and class discussion, the course will introduce you to the practice of history—the ways that historians interpret evidence and make sense of the past.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Use research in the library, archives, and digital repositories to develop practical and transferable skills in finding and weighing evidence;
2. Read and analyse primary sources in ways that recognize both their value, and their limitations;
3. Write clearly using your own ideas and words;
4. Understand the concept of historiography and recognize that historians bring their own scholarly interpretation to bear on the evidence of the past;
5. Voice your own critical views, both in class discussion and in written work;
6. Consider the contemporary relevance and importance of engaging with the course material.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*. This book is available for purchase at the Western Bookstore. Information about the current cost of the text (\$25 at time of order) can be found on the Bookstore’s website, along with options for e-book purchase at a slightly lower cost. All other required readings are posted on our course OWL site.

## Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Weekly discussion/ group reading response worksheets	ongoing	20
Participation in History Workshops	ongoing	10
Research Proposal	10/15/25	10
Primary Source Analysis	11/24/25	20
Primary Source Research Reflection	11/26/25	10
Final Exam	TBD	30

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

Tuesday, August 5, 2025