

Huron University College
Department of History
Winter 2020
HISTORY 2712G
Tyrants: Historical Profiles in Oppression and Resistance

Class Meets: Mondays 3:30-5:30 and Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 in HC-V207

Instructor: Dr. Tim Compeau

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-12:30 Tues: 2:30-3:30.

Course Description: This course explores tyranny in human history, from ancient to modern times, with a focus on the early modern West and its global expansion. 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.

Method: History 2712G is a lecture course which incorporates a discussion component. Readings will usually be explored in the second half of the Wednesday classes and discussed within a wider context to connect the case studies to broader themes and instances of oppression and resistance in history. Students should come prepared to participate, ask questions, and contribute to the learning experience.

Required Texts:

All readings can be found on JSTOR, Sakai, on library reserve, or have their stable URLs listed in the course summary below.

Learning Objectives:

By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- identify and explain the characteristics of oppressive regimes and 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.

Assignments:

Participation: 15%
Film Review: 15% **Due Jan 27**
Primary Source Assignment: 10% **Due Feb. 12**
Essay Proposal: 5% **Due Mar. 2**
Final Essay: 25% **Due March 30**
Final Exam: 30%

Tyrannical Film Review: (Due Jan 27) Select a film from the list provided and write a 7-8 page double-spaced review. You must use at least two scholarly books and two scholarly articles focusing on the era or on the people depicted in the film to assess whether the movie is historically accurate or authentic and whether the movie reflects themes and ideas about tyranny discussed in the class and in the historical literature.

Primary Source Assignment: (Due Feb 12)

Students will choose a manifesto, proclamation, or other source written by an oppressive leader, regime, or resistance movement. Students are required to provide an analysis of the source, placing it within its historical context and identifying how it connects with or challenges the themes and concepts explored in class. Papers should be 5-7 pages and include at least two academic books and one article. More information and a list of potential sources will be provided in class.

Research Essay: (Due March 30)

There are two options for the final essay. Option 1: Biography. Students will write a historiographical analysis comparing biographies or biographical accounts of a particular tyrant or freedom fighter (or someone who has been characterized by these terms in the past). Option 2: A research essay exploring the operation of an oppressive system of power, such as Apartheid, Jim Crow, Russian Serfdom, etc.

Either option should be built around a strong thesis/argument and be based on at least 5 scholarly sources. More information will be provided in class.

Papers must be 8-10 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font, with 1 inch margins, and use Chicago Manual of Style Format. Failure to meet these standards will result in 5% penalty.

Students are required to submit an **essay proposal of 200-250 words, due Mar. 2** which explains the topic, identifies key historical debates, and includes a bibliography of sources.

Participation: Students will be evaluated on the quality of their contributions to in-class and online discussions which show engagement with the course readings, lectures, and wider themes of the course. An online forum will also be available for students to provide written responses and reflections on the readings and lectures. More information will be provided in class.

Final Exam (April Examination Period)

A final exam to be scheduled by the registrar's office will cover material from the entire course.

Written Assignments: All written assignments should be typed, double spaced with one inch margins. See below for the Huron History Department's regulations on late penalties.

History Department Regulations Governing Assignments, Late Penalties, and Extensions
The History Department has specified that:

1. All essays are to be submitted in hard copy, typed and double-spaced on substantial white paper.
2. Footnotes, endnotes and bibliographies are to be prepared according to the Departmental Guide (which follows).
3. Late marks are calculated on the paper copy submitted to the instructor or in the Essay Drop Box (outside A116). Late penalties are calculated according to calendar day, including weekends.
4. In first and second year courses lateness will be penalized as follows: First day late -- 3 marks deduction. Each subsequent calendar day late -- 2 marks per day deduction.
5. Third and fourth year seminars will be penalized for lateness at the rate of half a grade (5%) per day.
6. No paper or seminar will be accepted if it is more than seven calendar days late.
7. Extensions will only be given for assignments worth more than 10% with medical documentation submitted through Academic Counseling.
8. Students must complete the written assignments worth more than 10% to pass essay courses.

Huron Statement on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offense and will be treated as such. Students who are in doubt as to the nature of this offence should consult their instructor, Department Chair, or Dean's Office, as well as the Huron University College Statement on Plagiarism, available at the Reference Desk in the Huron University College Library. In addition, students may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available at the Reference Desk in the Huron University College Library. Information about these resources can be found at <http://www.huronuc.on.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/WritingCentre>

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1: Jan. 6-8

Mon: Introduction: Defining Tyranny

Weds: God Kings of the Ancient World

Week 2: Jan. 13-15

Mon: Greek Tyranny. Discussion Readings: Plato's *Republic*, books 8 and 9. Sections from Aristotle, *Politics*

Weds: Alexander the Great

Week 3: Jan. 20-22

Mon: Sic Semper Tyrannis. The Roman Idea of Tyranny. The Caesars.

Weds: Discussion: The Theatricality of Tyranny

Readings: Selections from Tacitus, *Annals*. Suetonius, *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*. Simonetta Falashas-Zamponi, Chapter 3 "The Politics of Symbols" in *Fascist Spectacle: The Aesthetics of Power in Mussolini's Italy* (1997).

Week 4: Jan. 27-29

Mon: The Divine Right of Kings. King John and the Magna Carta. **Film Review Due**

Weds: Uprisings and Social Bandits

Readings: Sections from Anonimale Chronicle, "English Peasants' Revolt 1381."

Sections from Eric Hobsbawm, *Bandits*

Week 5: Feb. 3-5

Mon: The Scourge of God/Heretics and Fanatics.

Weds: Interrogating the Hidden Enemy

Reading: Bernard Gui, "The Waldensian Heretics," Transcripts of the Salem Witch Trials.

Sections from Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago* (1974).

Week 6: Feb. 10-12

Mon: Machiavelli: Power and Institutions.

Readings: Sections from Machiavelli, *The Prince* (1532).

Weds: Oliver Cromwell **Primary Source Assignment Due.**

Feb. 17-20

READING WEEK. NO CLASSES.

Week 7: Feb. 24-26

Mon: Absolutism. The French Revolution and Robespierre.

Weds: Terror.

Readings: Robespierre, "On Revolutionary Policy," and "On the Cult of the Supreme Being."

Selections from Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748). Daniel Gordon, "The Theater of

Terror: The Jacobin Execution in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective" *Historical*

Reflections, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Summer 2003): 251-273.

Week 8: Mar. 2-4

Mon: The Thief of Europe **Essay Proposal Due**

Weds: Tyranny of the Majority

Discussion: The Paradoxes of American Liberty

Readings: Sections from Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*. Ronald N. Satz, “Rhetoric vs. Reality: The Indian Policy of Andrew Jackson” from *Cherokee Removal: Before and After* (1991).

Week 9: Mar. 9-11

Mon: Colonial Empires

Weds: Colonial Resistance

Discussion: Colonial Oppression and Resistance

Readings: Sections from Ben Kiernan, *Blood and Soil*.

Week 10: Mar. 16-18

Mon: Totalitarianism I

Weds: Totalitarianism II

Discussion: Comparing Totalitarian Regimes

Readings: Sections from Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1951).

Week 11: Mar. 23-25

Mon: Dictatorships

Weds: The Killing Fields

Discussion: From Resistance to Tyranny

Readings: Introduction. Ben Kiernan, *Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide from Sparta to Darfur* (2009)

Week 12: Mar. 30- Apr. 1: Tyranny in the 21st Century

Mon: Authoritarianism in the 21st Century **Final Essay Due**

Weds: Review

Discussion: Exam Review



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the Code of Student Conduct at:

www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf.

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Please see the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post all relevant information on the OWL class site at: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>, and on the Huron website at www.huronuc.on.ca/about/accessibility .

Academic Student Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising> .

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/art-social-science> and at <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/management-and-organizational-studies> .

Adding / Dropping Courses

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Huron website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From

these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as per the Academic Calendar:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189 .

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for a detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com.

Computer-Marked Tests/exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Clickers

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on “Special” Accommodation

Students who require **special** accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html> .

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf .

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should**

consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a.** students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b.** any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)**, signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Please see section 4 below for more details.
- c.** The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- d.** The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- e.** The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- f.** Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
- g.** Self-reporting **may not be used** for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- h.** students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form**, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Policy on “Academic” Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds

(if absence is not self-reported)

- (a) **Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go directly to Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca .**

University Senate policy, which can be found at,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf , requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf .

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

- (b) **Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly**

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

- (c) **Non-Medical Grounds: Consult your Instructor directly.**

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and at Western

Students who are stressed, emotionally distressed or in mental health crisis, please refer to: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help, or email Huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca to access your wellness staff directly.

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/.

The Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) provides medical response to 9-1-1 calls on Main, Brescia and Huron campuses which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the academic year. SERT is dispatched through the campus community Police Service (CCPS) to any medical emergency on campus at (519) 661-3300. For more information about SERT please visit: sert.uwo.ca/about-sert/about-sert/.

Important Dates and Directory at Huron and Western

For a current and up-to-date list of important dates and campus directories, please visit:

- **Huron – Important Dates:** <https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines>
- **Western – Academic Calendar & Sessional Dates:** <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>
- **Huron Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory>
- **Western Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html>