

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Murder: A Social and Legal History**

Course Number and Section:

HISTORY

4804G 550

Instructor Name(s): 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 makes murder a crime? This course explores the historical and legal evolution of murder and of the adversarial murder trial in England. Each week students will examine a different type of murder - infanticide, domestic murder, serial killings- using coroners' records, trial transcripts, police files, popular broadsides, newspaper reports, and other relevant primary sources. Our case studies focus on historical English trials with some Canadian and American examples.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand the historical evolution of legal definitions of murder in the common-law system and their application in British and Canadian courts;

Critically analyze individual case studies in their contemporary legal, social, scientific, and cultural context;

Display close reading and writing skills that will equip you for advanced study; effectively organize your time and meet deadlines;

Conduct original research using primary and secondary materials, and confidently present your research findings orally and in writing;

Develop and defend historical arguments by finding your own voice as an historian.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Kate Morgan, *Murder: The Biography* (London: Mudlark, 2021).

Available online, through the instructor or on 2-hour reserve at the Huron Library.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Case Study Proposal	Jan 26	10
Case Study Blog/Essay	March 8	30
Recorded Class Presentation	varies	10

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Weekly	20
Final Exam	TBA	30

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

Saturday, November 25, 2023