

HIST1P50: Co-Operative Historical Projects

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Online@BrockU Winter 2021



Wearing Masks in California During the 1918 Pandemic. Photo: Raymond Coyne / Lucretia Little History Room, Mill Valley Public Library

Many of the public health measures in place during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic were first deployed and mandated during the 1918 “Spanish Flu” pandemic, one of the first truly global disease outbreaks. The pandemic had lasting effects in many areas of society, from medical science to domestic architecture.

Course Description

HIST1P50 is the “Cohort Seminar” for the History Co-Op Program. The purpose of this course is two-fold: to introduce students to some of the technical elements of historical research in a university setting, with an eye to transferring those skills to their work placements in later semesters, and to introduce students to one another, and to develop a rapport among the Co-Op students who are sharing a unique experience in one of Canada’s only History Co-op programs.

This winter term, we are going to achieve this purpose by working together on a public digital history project. We are in the midst of a global pandemic – and as historians, it behooves us to analyze the past to understand our present, and to help others to do the same. Therefore we are going to build a virtual exhibit and history resources about the 1918 “Spanish Flu” pandemic. Together, we will develop and execute a large-scale research project from inception to digital publication.

Course Outcomes

By the end of HIST1P50, students will be able to:

- Identify a *research topic* from a given *subject*
- Develop a *research question* from that *topic*
- Research and build a bibliography of primary and secondary sources using Zotero bibliographic management software
- Write about history with a public audience in mind, and also identify other means of communicating historical knowledge, including maps, videos and memes
- Design and publish a simple website using a platform such as Wordpress or Omeka

Course Structure

HIST1P50 is a synchronous online class, which meets Thursday mornings on MS Teams from 9-11. During this time we will work together, in small groups (“breakout rooms”) or as a larger brainstorming team, on the part of our group project for which we are responsible. There will be some expected work outside of class hours, but the bulk of our project will take place together in our MS Teams sessions.

Each student will take responsibility for certain portions of each stage of this research project. Students may do more for certain portions than for others, and workloads can be determined in consultation with Professor Rose. I expect that the overall workload for each student will balance out, eg, some students may be more drawn to the annotating of primary sources and construction of gallery collections, while others may wish to work more intensively on the design and construction of the website. We can formally divide responsibilities in Week 2.

Students may work individually or in pairs / small groups. Students wishing to work in pairs / groups will be graded as a unit and are each responsible for the work of the group as a whole.

Over the course of the semester we will work together and in parallel on the separate elements of a large research project, and by Week 12 we will publish the results of that research in a public-facing web presence, including a website and other forms of web media that we think is appropriate and engaging.

Course Grading Scheme

TBD in discussion in first class.

Course Tasks and Timeline

1. Project Design: What do we want to cover? What are our topics? What are our questions? What are the necessary elements of our project (eg what do we want to do?) Who has what responsibilities, and how will they achieve them?
 - a. Timeline: Weeks 1-2
2. Initial Research: Zotero library (libraries?) construction and annotation of secondary sources
 - a. Timeline: Weeks 3-5

3. Primary Source Research: Diaries, pictures, newspaper reports. Creation and annotation of galleries
 - a. Timeline: Weeks 6-7
4. Mid-Course Project Review: What do we have? What is next? Where are the gaps and what is good?
 - a. Timeline: Week 8
5. Content Creation and Website Framing: Text, maps, galleries, objects
 - a. Timeline: Weeks 9-10
6. Website Construction: Content delivery into website frame, website troubleshooting, final project editing, social media management?
 - a. Timeline: Week 11
7. Website Publication and Virtual Launch
 - a. Timeline: Week 12

Task	Timeline
Project Design	Weeks 1-2
Initial Research	Weeks 3-5
Primary Source Research	Weeks 6-7
Mid-Course Project Review	Week 8
Content Creation / Website Framing	Weeks 9-10
Website Construction	Week 11
Website Publication	Week 12

Course Policies

Communication

Communication with me should be through my email (crose@brocku.ca) from your brocku.ca address for anything requiring more than a “yes” or “no”. If you send it from a non-brock email address it may go into my Junk folder; Brock’s filters are pretty unpredictable.

Basic questions can be directed to me through MS Teams, for which I receive notices on my phone.

I do my best to respond to all emails and questions within 24 hours, though if you email me on Friday evening or the weekend, you will not hear from me until Monday.

Major announcements will be posted for posterity on SAKAI, which will also send you a notice via BrockU email.

I prefer to be called “Prof. Rose” in person and in email. If you have a preferred title or pronoun, please do not hesitate to let me know in person or in writing. I will use it without question.

Late Assignments

There’s a pandemic on, people, and everyone is locked in their homes slowly losing their minds. I am generous with extensions and hesitant to apply late penalties in these strange times. Please do not

take advantage of this policy, and please bear in mind that this is a group project course: all actions have reverberating effects for the entire class.

Medical Exemption Policy

Again, pandemic. If you are sick, rest until you feel better. If you think you have COVID and are going to be out for a while, please let me know when you can, but also prioritize your health and your well-being, however you do that. You can let me know post-facto. If you disappear for a month I will enquire after you but assume you are genuinely sick and not vacationing in St. Barts with Ontario Cabinet Ministers.

I will make arrangements to ensure you are able to get course credit for work done if you get sick.

Attendance and Grades

Students are expected to attend all classes and must submit all assignments in order to pass this course. Seminars are very important for discussion and shared critique of historical problems and issues, and active participation in these meetings is critical to success in the course. As such, a student who misses more than three (3) seminars without appropriate documentation will receive a failing grade.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should consult Section VII, "Academic Misconduct", in the "Academic Regulations and University Policies" entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at <http://brocku.ca/webcal> to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties.

Intellectual Property Notice

All slides, presentations, handouts, tests, exams, and other course materials created by the instructor in this course are the intellectual property of the instructor. A student who publicly posts or sells an instructor's work, without the instructor's express consent, may be charged with misconduct under Brock's Academic Integrity Policy and/or Code of Conduct, and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

Academic Accommodation

As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the university community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodations related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Development Centre (4th floor Schmon Tower, ex. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor well in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.

Academic Accommodation due to Religious Obligations

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious

obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements.

Etiquette for Online Courses

This section is adapted from the 2020/21 Syllabus for HIST1F95 prepared by Dr. Elizabeth Vlossak and Dr. Gregor Kranjc.

Netiquette is the term used to describe rules of courtesy when using electronic communication. These rules are intended to help us use the medium effectively and considerately.

During online seminars, avoid sending unkind messages in the chat. Besides angering others it will reflect poorly on you. Such comments may have the effect of shutting down discussion. When critical comments are called for, try to frame them constructively and tactfully.

Remember that you are addressing a group. Even though you cannot always see everyone in the group, they will be listening and reading. In order to keep online discussion civil and productive consider these points:

- Don't say things that you wouldn't say face to face publicly.
- Don't address comments to an individual unless you want everyone to know what you are telling that person.
- Don't share personal or confidential information. If you are quoting from something another person has sent you personally, ask their permission first.
- Read your message before you send it. Once it is out there, you can't change it.

Try to keep to the topic. Introducing side issues or irrelevant postings takes the discussion off message.

Use individual e-mail for messages to individuals.

Need Help?

This is an unprecedented and difficult time to be a university student. The following links are resources for students to use if they need help developing study habits, navigating degree paths, or managing their mental and physical health

[A to Z Learning Services](#)

[BUSU Ombudsperson](#)

Humanities Faculty Advisor Liz Hay - lhay@brocku.ca

[Student Wellness and Accessibility Services](#)

Important Dates

February 15-19 is the scheduled reading week.

February 28 2021 is the date you will be notified of 15% of your course grade.

March 5 2021 is the date for withdrawal from the course without academic penalty.

April 12 is set aside to make up for classes missed due to adverse weather (don't you miss snow days?)

April 13-23 are set aside for formal examination periods.