

History 490R: The Environmental History of British Columbia.

Instructor: David Brownstein <david.brownstein at geog.ubc.ca>
January 2017. Mon, Wed, 10:30 to noon in Buch Tower 1207.

Office: Buch 1108. Office hours: M/W hour after class.

Pre-requisites: none.

Electronic readings available via Connect.

This is your opportunity to head into the archives and craft your own narrative on an environmental aspect of our shared home: British Columbia. The only requirement is that you be curious. We assume no prior knowledge of either British Columbia or the environment. All are welcome.

We will explore the reciprocal relationships between different groups of humans and non-humans, from an historical perspective. By way of example, Vancouver is arguably the largest clear-cut in BC. How did this city of glass towers come to supplant the pre-existing aboriginal communities and extensive old-growth forest? Did these changes differ from elsewhere? With what consequence? Our stories to explain environmental change reveal much about ourselves.

Here, the past is very much alive! Unresolved Native land claims invite competing researchers to write histories that define how we ought to redistribute access to resources. This is also a province of divergent environmental visions, where people look at the same patch of land or length of coastline and imagine quite contradictory possibilities. These people, too, enlist stories of progress or decline to either justify or condemn various schemes for development.

By term's end, you should have acquired and sharpened your skills to

- navigate the archives to find specific information
- analyze archival documents across a variety of media, and undertake oral history interviews
- frame your own original work in relation to the larger fields with which you are "in conversation"
- communicate your research in a clear and well-organized way, both on paper and in presentation; and
- be a member of a supportive cohort of peers helping one another to write eloquently and persuasively.

Thus equipped, students will be better positioned to secure stimulating employment, or pursue future graduate studies.

Please note that the archives are only open during business hours so your schedule must have sufficient flexibility so that you can do your research.

Students may work on a project of your own invention, or work to answer a question

provided by an off-campus community partner. Past partners have included local museums, heritage societies, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, etc.

The seminar format means that learning will take place through student discussion and supportive, constructive criticism. In preparation for our weekly meetings, students are expected to circulate discussion questions in advance, and participate in exploration with the group. As such, I will take attendance; weekly attendance and participation is graded. Excused absences (religious holidays, a note from a doctor or a funeral notice) will not impact your participation grade. More than one unexcused absence will negatively affect your grade.

There will be five guided assignments. The first will be a site history (your home!), informed by a trip to the City of Vancouver Archives. Thereafter you will produce four cumulative assignments in support of your final paper. Papers deemed of sufficient quality will be candidates for posting online in cIRcle, UBC's digital repository.

Evaluation.

Weekly Attendance/tardiness and participation 15%.

House history (1250 words) 10%

Term Project

 Proposal (750 words) 5%.

 Literature Review (2000 words) 25%.

 In class paper draft (2000 words) 5%.

 10-Minute presentation 15% [last three weeks of class].

 Final Report (5000 words) 25%.

Academic Integrity.

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. All students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. Violations of academic integrity lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise. Plagiarism may result in a mark of zero on the assignment and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

Plagiarism policy: <<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/guide-to-academic-integrity/>>

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at <<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0.>>

The term at a glance.

Date	Topic	Readings	Due
Jan 4	Intro		
Jan 9 or 11	Transforming Primary Documents into Narrative.	Wiki, Cdn biography, Harvey, Journal.	
Jan 16 or 18	Learning the Secret Handshake	Fieldtrip, City of Vancouver Archives. Colten, Roy.	Proposal 5%
Jan 23 or 25	Early BC colonial encounters	Cook journal, Harris, Wickwire. Brief trip for air-photos.	
Jan 30 or Feb 1	Humans as historical agents	Indian Act, Stadfeld.	Site Hist 20%
Feb 6	Research Ethics/Oral History Interviews	TCPS 2 online research ethics tutorial.	Ethics cert.
Feb 15	Nature as historical agent	Piper, Cameron, Murton.	
Feb 20 or 22	No class (Reading Week)		
Feb 27 or March 1	Parks	Barman, Hermansen and Wynn.	Lit Review 25%
March 6 or 8	Analyzing sources	Walk peers through an analysis of two of your primary sources	
March 13 or 16	In class peer editing	Bring your well-developed first draft to share with a colleague.	Draft 5%
March 20 or 22	Five Presentations		15%
March 27 or 29	Five Presentations		
April 3 or 5	Three Presentations		
April 10	Final Paper		25%

Weekly Schedule.

January 4. **Introductions.**

- Course infomercial for those shopping for classes
- Primary source activity
- Selection of Monday/Wednesday sessions

Jan 9 or 11. **Transforming Primary Documents into Narrative**

- David Douglas entry in Wikipedia:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Douglas>
- Douglas entry in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online:
<http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?&id_nbr=2847&&PHPSESSID=n5s6fftp44i3i3rmv43ltpt8j2>
- Athelstan George Harvey (1947) *Douglas of the Fir: A Biography of David Douglas Botanist*, Harvard University Press, pp 107-129. Available via Connect.
- Douglas Journal, Tuesday March 20, 1827- Sept 1 (pdf physical pages 251-302, numbered as 242-293). Available via Connect.

Jan 16 or 18. **Learning the Secret Handshake - City of Vancouver Archives Fieldtrip.**

Project Proposal Due (5%).

- British Columbia Ministry of the Environment (2006). "Facts on Contaminated Sites". Available on Connect.
- British Columbia Ministry of the Environment (2009). "Profiles on Remediation Projects: 18th and Dunbar, Former Dry cleaning Operations, Vancouver, B.C.". Available via Connect.
- Craig E. Colten (2004). "Hazardous Wastes and Environmental Remediation" in *Public History and the Environment*, Martin V Melosi and Philip Scarpino (eds), Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida, pp 106-123. Available via Connect.

Jan 23 or 25. **Early BC colonial encounters**

- Visit to the Geographic Information Centre re Air Photos
- Primary(ish) document, extract from Captain Cook's journal at Nootka Sound. Available via Connect.
- Cole Harris (1997) "Voices of Smallpox around the Strait of Georgia" in *The Resettlement of British Columbia*, UBC Press, pp 3-30. Available as an ebook via the UBC library.
- Wendy Wickwire (1994). "To See Ourselves as Other's Other: Nlaka'amux Contact Narratives" in *Canadian Historical Review*, vol 75, no 1, pp 1-20. Available online via UBC library.

Jan 30 or Feb 1. **Humans as historical agents.**

Site History Due (20%)

- Primary Document: The Indian Act. Available via Connect.
- Bruce Stadfeld (1999). "Manifestations of Power: Native Resistance to the Resettlement of British Columbia" in R.W. Sandwell (ed), *Beyond the City Limits: Rural History in British Columbia*, UBC Press, Vancouver, pp 33-46. Available as an ebook via the UBC Library.

Feb 6 or 8. **Research Ethics Tutorial.**

TCPS 2 Research Ethics certificate due.

- <<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>>

Feb 15 **Nature as Historical Agent.**

- Liza Piper (2013). "Knowing Nature Through History" in *History Compass*, 11/12, pp 1139-1149. Available via Connect
- Laura Cameron extract (1997). "Margins and Mosquitoes" in *Openings: A Meditation on History, Method, and Sumas Lake*, McGill-Queen's University Press, pp 41-75. Online as ebook via UBC library.
- James Murton extract (2007). "Creating Order at Sumas" in *Creating a Modern Countryside: Liberalism and Land Resettlement in British Columbia*, UBC press, pp 109-135. Available as ebook via UBC library.

Feb 20 or 22. Reading week, no class.

Feb 27 or March 1. **The little-known Environmental History of some local parks.**

- Sally Hermansen and Graeme Wynn (2005). "Reflections on the Nature of an Urban Bog" in *Urban History Review*, vol 34, no 1, pp 9-27. Available via UBC library.
- Jean Barman (2007). "Erasing Indigenous Indigeneity in Vancouver" in *BC Studies*, no 155, pp 3-30. Available online via the UBC Library.

Literature review due (25%).

March 6 or 8. **Analyzing sources.**

- Walk peers through an analysis of two of your most significant primary sources

March 13 or 16. **Peer Editing.**
First Draft Due (5%).

- Bring your well-developed first draft to share with a colleague.

March 20 or 22. **First of five presentations.**
Presentations (15%).

- You will be providing written constructive criticism in response to the presentations

March 27 or 28. **Second set of five presentations.**

April 3 or 5. **Third set of three presentations.**

April 10. **Final Paper Due (25%).**