

Grande Prairie Regional College

(FALL 1992)

Instructor: Alan Segal

Office: C410, 539-2011; 539-0092 (h)

Office Hours: M 1:00-2:00pm; T 1:30-2:30pm; or by appointment

Course Prerequisite: None

Text: The structure of Canadian history, 3rd edition - J.L. Finlay and D.N. Sprague

Assignments: One Group Presentation (1-9)
Final Essay Exam (1-9)
3 Journals (not marked - each must refer to a different reading and/or class discussion)
Self-evaluation (1-5) - a statement explaining how you arrived at the mark is due the last class of the semester. I WILL NOT ALTER WHATEVER MARK YOU ASSIGN YOURSELF.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

You may select your group partners, but I may assign you to a group if all readings are not covered. No group can have more than 4 members and most will have three.

Consider yourselves historians. You should identify the main and supporting arguments of the historical interpretations of the issue(s) you're investigating, and offer a critical assessment of them. Your effort should aim to understand individuals, groups, and social forces in the context of their times, and not to simply apply recent attitudes to earlier circumstances. The groups must lead the class in a discussion of the implications of their presentations.

A single grade will be given to the group as a whole, and this will be the mark given to each individual in the group. Organization and delivery of material, the familiarity with the readings, and the facility with which questions are responded to, will have a bearing on the group's evaluation. Each presentation will be expected to last one class period.

Final Essay Exam

You will answer at least one question. I am not testing for memory, so you can bring whatever notes and documents you think are appropriate. Precise, reasoned, and grammatical historical analysis is expected.

Evaluation:

All marks will be awarded on a 1-9 basis. Assignments will be graded using 5 as a benchmark. There is also a possibility of a bonus mark based on the quality of your class discussion, providing you attend class regularly and are prepared to participate. Everyone may, but not necessarily will, receive a bonus mark. Eligibility is based on completing the required assignments and participating in class discussion sufficiently to allow me to evaluate your input. The bonus

mark will have a range of 1-4. No class averaging will be done.

Your final grade will be determined by totaling the stanine marks you receive on your presentation and final exam and the mark you give yourself, and dividing the sum by 2.5.

DISCUSSION SEQUENCE

1. Introduction to course
2. Chapters 12 - 14, F & S; Section 5, SMC
 - (2.1 - Is confederation an agreement between two founding peoples? What does your judgment suggest for our present constitutional debates?)
 - 2.2 - What is nationhood? How may we apply your understanding of this idea to our country?)
3. Chapter 15, F & S
 - (3.1 - Louis Riel was recently proclaimed/acclaimed a father of confederation. Do you agree with this decision?)
 - 3.2 - Are there hints about Canada's future treatment of minorities in how 'we' dealt with the Metis?)
4. Chapters 16, 17, 22 - 24, F & S
 - (4.1 - Discuss the assumptions of the National Policy and post-WW2 continentalism. Which approach is more beneficial to the country, economically and politically?)
 - 4.2 - Are unions necessary?)
5. Chapter 18, F & S
(Were the reactions of many French Quebecers in 1917 and 1944 indications of less commitment to Canada than among most citizens in the rest of the country? If so, what may this portend about our current constitutional negotiations?)
6. Chapters 19 - 21, F & S
 - (6.1 - Discuss the tensions evident across the country, and elaborate on whether they have caused you to change your ideas about nationhood. Given what you know of pre-WW2 Canadian history, and assuming the question was asked of you in the summer of 1939, would you consider Canada a viable political entity?)
 - 6.2 - Justify Marxism as an alternative to Capitalism.)
7. Chapters 25 - 27, F & S; Sections 1 - 3, SMC
 - (7.1 - Was the federal government justified in invoking the War Measures Act in 1970?)
 - 7.2 - Discuss the conflicting views of Canada and its constitution. What possibilities for reconciliation would you have foreseen, given the ideas of the time?)
 - 7.3 - Does Canada need a Charter of Rights and Freedoms?)
8. Chapter 28, F & S
(Assess the value to Canada of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States [and now Mexico].)