

HISTORY 426 HISTORY OF QUEBEC MONDAYS 1-3:40 PARK
HALL 545

Instructor: Prof. Liana Vardi

Office hours: after class or by appointment

Office: 582 Park Hall

Email: vardi@buffalo.edu this is the best and fastest way to reach me

This course covers four centuries at a gallop, focusing on the issue of nationalism, how it arose in Quebec, how it developed and changed over time. We will therefore look at politics, but also at the role of language and religion; we will examine the creation of an “historical memory” for French Canadians through the lasting sense of victimhood engendered by the Conquest. French Canada has felt encircled in a continent dominated by English and English elites, and evolved strategies to cope with and to overcome these obstacles. These strategies were not always successful. While Quebec history can be fitted within Canadian history as a whole, its peculiar character, its permission to retain French civil law by the Quebec Act of 1774, to maintain its language and control over education, and to practice Catholicism without losing civic rights, did differentiate it from other provinces. This being said, the “other Quebecers,” the English-speakers, the Protestants and Jews, receive short shrift in the historical literature because of the weight granted the making of the French Canadian nation. Some of these interactions will be examined through readings, but also through fiction and film. Given that academic studies of Quebec history are very much the product of their times, I have chosen to assign the most recent books available whenever possible.

Learning objectives

Students are expected to come away from the course with an understanding of the history of Quebec

To grasp and articulate the arguments in an assigned reading

To be able to differentiate among historiographical approaches and to see where historical debates lie

To be able to express ideas clearly orally and in writing

To improve these communication and analytical skills during the semester

To demonstrate the ability to work and think independently

All these are skills that are assessed when you apply to graduate school

Topics and Readings

31 August—Introduction

7 September LABOR DAY no classes

PART ONE THE FRENCH REGIME

14 September--**Setting the Scene 1608-1840**

An Illustrated History of Quebec, Tradition and Modernity, Introduction + chapters 1 to 5 (to page 95) on UB learns

The French in North America, 1500-1783, pp.66-164, 198-234 on UB learns

21 September-**The settlers**

Along a River: The First French-Canadian Women, pp. 53-209 on UB learns

28 September—**Acadians**

The Acadian Diaspora, e-book available through UB Libraries, entire [Antonine Maillet, *Pélagie la Charette*] out-of-print, on UB learns

5 October--**the Conquest**

Remembering 1759, The Conquest of Canada in Historical Memory, chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12

PART II LANGUAGE AND FAITH

12 October--**Colony to Province -lighter reading because paper 1 is due**

Mann, *Dream of a Nation*, pp. 48-113, on UB learns

Film: *15 février 1839*

PAPER 1 Memories of Conquest: discuss the impact of English conquest on French Canadians and Acadians, using the *Acadian Diaspora*, *Remembering 1759*, and *Pélagie la Charrette*. 12 pages not including endnotes or bibliography. You can refer to other books read for class, but no need for extra research.

NOTE: all papers must have 1 inch margins ONLY, font 12 double-spaced, with direct quotations single-spaced and NOT indented. Failure to do so will damage your grade.

19 October—**The patriotes 1837-39**

The Patriots and the People, The Rebellion of 1837 in Rural Lower Canada

26 October **identity and language 1**

Speaking Up, A History of Language and Politics in Canada and Quebec, pp.1-137, 142-9, 153-74, 184-200, 211-12, 226-47

2 November—**Identity and Language 2: Exodus**

The Franco-Americans of New England, Dreams and Reality, pp.3-131, 146-168, 188-221

[Claude-Henri Grignon, *The Woman and the Miser* [*Un homme et son péché*], very short novel, a classic of the 1930s adapted for radio and a long-running TV series, *Les Belles histoires du pays d'en-haut*, and subject of 2 films] out-of-print, on UB Learns

9 November—**the nationalists**

Henri Bourassa and the Golden Calf, pp.1-145 on UB learns
Mann, *Dream of a Nation*, pp. 201-248 on UB learns

PART III MODERNITY AND SEPARATISM

16 November--**Urban experiences**

Bradbury Working Families: Age, Gender and Daily Survival in Industrializing Montreal, Chapters 1 and 3. On UB Learns

Illustrated History of Quebec, chapters 7 and 8 on UB learns

[Gabrielle Roy, *The Tin Flute*, another Quebecois classic although written by a Franco-Manitoban, it tells the tale of a family struggling during WWII in the working-class district of Saint-Henri in Montreal]

23 November **Quebec fascism**

The Canadian Führer: The Life of Adrien Arcand pp.13-119, 159-182, 205-215, 227-46, 249-53, 266-70, 283-88, 306-09

[**As counterpoint:** Mordecai Richler, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* (1959) his first novel about the Montreal Jewish community, with a wheeler-dealer hero—which would become a Richler leitmotif—and his relations with Anglos and French Canadians. Was made into a movie in 1974 starring Richard Dreyfus.]

30 November **René Lévesque and Pierre Elliott Trudeau**

possibly Lévesque's *Memoirs* and 1 DVD biopic of the young Trudeau

7 December—**Separatism**

The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal entire (pp.3-215)

BOOKS FOR CLASS: those you must purchase have a star, check the syllabus to see where you can find the other readings.

- Peter Gossage and J.I. Little, *An Illustrated History of Quebec, Tradition and Modernity* (Oxford, 2013) ISBN 978-0-19-900995-4 **recommended purchase**
- W.J. Eccles, *The French in North America, 1500-1783* (Markham, Ont., 1998) ISBN 1-55-41-0768
- Jan Noel, *Along a River: The First French-Canadian Women* (Toronto, 2013) ISBN: 978-1-4426-1238-9
- Christopher Hodson, *The Acadian Diaspora, An Eighteenth-Century History*, (Oxford, 2012) e-book available through UB Libraries
- *Philip Buckner and John G. Reid, *Remembering 1759, The Conquest of Canada in Historical Memory* (Toronto, 2012) ISBN 978-1-4426-1251-8
- Susan Mann, *The Dream of a Nation, A Social and Intellectual History of Quebec* McGill-Queen's Press, 1993, multiple editions ISBN: 978-0-7735-2410-1
- *Allan Greer, *The Patriots and the People, The Rebellion of 1837 in Rural Lower Canada* (Toronto, 1993) ISBN 978-0-8020-6934-4
- *Marcel Trudel and Martin Pâquet, *Speaking Up, A History of Language and Politics in Canada and Quebec* (Toronto, 2012) ISBN: 978-1-926662-93-0
- *Yves Roby, *The Franco-Americans of New England, Dreams and Reality* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2005) ISBN: 978-2894484005
- Bettina Bradbury, *Working Families: Age, Gender and Daily Survival in Industrializing Montreal*, (1993 –various editions)
- Jean-François Nadeau, *The Canadian Führer: The Life of Adrien Arcand* (Lorimer, 2011) ISBN: 978-1552779040. The book is in the library but not available to institutions as an ebook. I got myself a Nook version for \$10.99
- *Sean Mills, *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2010) ISBN: 978-0-7735-3695-1
- Mordecai Richler, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, multiple editions
- Gabrielle Roy, *The Tin Flute*, multiple editions
- Jane Jacobs, *The Question of Separatism, Quebec and the Struggle over Sovereignty* (Montreal, Baraka Books, 1980, second edition with a new introduction, 2011) ISBN: 978-1926824062 ebook via the UB library catalog

All books with an asterisk * and *An Illustrated History of Quebec* and the two novels that are still in print can be found at the UB bookstore AND ON RESERVE IN THE LIBRARY. You may purchase the books anywhere you like. Some are available via 3rd-sellers on Amazon quite cheaply.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 12-page paper on memory of conquest due October 12 20%
- Class presentation from a list of topics TBA 20%
- 15-page essay on chosen presentation topic 30% due a week after class presentation –this will involve reading several monographs and scholarly articles. No web sources allowed. Jstor and Project Muse that serve as online libraries for scholarly articles do not count as web sources. **Check bibliography with me**
- 12-page paper due 1 week after last class asking you to analyse critically Jane Jacobs' book on Separatism in relation to works read during the semester 30%

Presentation topics

The Jesuit Relations (use Allan Greer's book of translations)
New France and Slavery
Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, soldier, explorer of the Mississippi Valley
The Conquest of Quebec and the battle of the Plains of Abraham, 1759 (focus on military aspects)
James McGill from Scottish merchant to endower of an English university in Montreal
"Un Canadien errant" [A Wandering Canadian] song written in 1842 about the pain of exile after the defeat of the Patriots
The Irish immigration
Wilfrid Laurier, Québécois or Canadian?
The Montreal Jewish Community (or any of the other Quebec ethnic communities: Italian, Portuguese, North African, Haitian, etc...)
Rural Quebec mythologized, Louis Hémon's 1914 novel, *Maria Chapdelaine*
Battle over conscription, 1917
Quebecois feminists (see Susan Mann)
Abbé Groulx, priest, conservative nationalist historian
Gabrielle Roy and *The Tin Flute*
The Quiet Revolution
Joual (French-Canadian dialect), Michel Tremblay (novelist and playwright), Robert Charlebois, composer-singer
Leonard Cohen
The 1970 FLQ crisis and War Measures Act
Mordecai Richler and Anglo backlash
Trudeau-Lévesque from friends to enemies
You can also discuss with me a presentation/essay topic not listed here

There are no grades for "attendance and participation" because you are expected to attend all seminars. You get two freebies (although you will need to hand in a 2-page summary of that week's reading) after which you will lose 5% of the total grade for every unaccounted absence. You will need a doctor's note for any medical absences. Your cousin's wedding will count as one of your freebies. Your job, should you have one, does not come first. If you have chosen to take this class, you must do so seriously. **You need to do all the readings, come prepared to discuss them, and understand that there is a trajectory to this course and if you miss class, you will miss a chunk of the story.** Although there is no formal grade for participation, your participation will be noted.

You are responsible for understanding what counts as plagiarism. Refer to the student handbook if you are unsure.