

History 2420F: Homefront Britain during World War Two

Dr. Amy Bell
Huron University College 2022

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Class Time: Monday 12:30-2:30 pm, Wednesday 1:30-2:30 pm.

Section: 550

Classroom: V207

Office Hours: V130: After Class or by appointment

BACKGROUND:

This course explores daily life in Britain during the extraordinary events of the Second World War. Each week students will use diaries, letters, photographs, newspapers, films and propaganda to examine themes such as rationing, the black market, bombing raids, refugees and foreign soldiers, crime and violence, and the mass evacuation of children.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize and define the main themes in the history of Britain's WW2 home front history;
2. Analyse and discuss relevant primary sources across a range of media;
3. Develop close reading and writing skills and effectively organize to meet deadlines;
4. Question and evaluate historiographical debates relating to WW2;
5. Engage with the question of WW2 history's relevance to the present.

Assignments:

Primary Source Assignment 25%	Oct 5 by 11 p.m.
Class Presentation 10%	Varies
Participation 20%	Weekly
Film Response 15%	Nov 14 by 11 p.m.
Final Historiographical Paper 30%	Dec 7 by 11 p.m.

All your written assignments will be submitted through OWL.

Required Texts: There are no texts to purchase for this course; all material will be available through OWL or online.

Academic Integrity

All your work, including any reading responses, must be based on your own research and in your own words. All assignments will be checked through the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin. Copying from the internet or other student work is plagiarism and will result in a mark of zero and a notification to the Associate Dean. For more information on academic plagiarism, students should consult the official Western policy:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Late Penalties and Last Day to Submit: Late assignments are penalized 2% per day, including weekends. Essays must be submitted within a week of the deadline; no essays will be accepted after the seventh day (unless the student has been granted Academic Consideration). No late final paper/take-home exams will be accepted. Students must complete the written assignments to pass essay courses. If the written assignments are not handed in, the default grade will be 48% or the cumulative average of the student, whichever is lower.

Academic Consideration: All requests for consideration must first go through Academic counsellors in appropriate Faculty Dean's Office. **In-class participation cannot be accommodated.**

There are two systems of Academic Consideration at Western/Huron:

- 1) Requests for consideration through Academic Counselling for short and medium-term concerns:
https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/
- 2) and longer-term accommodations through Accessible Education:
http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

No matter which system the student is registered with, they must contact the course instructor with a request to accommodate **within 24 hours** of the assignment deadline. It is the prerogative of the instructor to decide the academically appropriate accommodation for that specific course and assignment. Please note that Western's Academic Handbook, Rights and Responsibilities, Accommodation for Students with Disabilities, Section 2 states that "Reasonable Academic Accommodation...addresses the limitations experienced by a student with disabilities in a manner that allows them to meet the essential requirements of a course or program of study, without resulting in undue hardship to the University. There will often be a range of

reasonable academic accommodations available, and a student might not be entitled to their preferred accommodation.”

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_Disabilities.pdf

Assignments

Participation: 20% Weekly

Students will gain participation marks each class by making substantive comments on the course material in class discussion, and online comments in Forums and on other students' presentations. Students can check in for their current cumulative mark at any time.

Primary Source Paper 25% Oct 5 by 11 p.m.

For this assignment, students will choose and analyse a relevant primary source, photograph, book or pamphlet from the Imperial War Museum's digitised collection at <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections> and place it in the historiographical context of the course. The paper should be 1,500-1,700 words (6-7 double spaced pages), and be written in scholarly form, with footnotes or endnotes in the History Department (Chicago) format. Full instructions are on OWL. The source must be chosen by **Sept. 26**, and emailed to the professor for approval.

Primary Source Presentation- pre-recorded 10% Dates Vary

Students will sign up to record and post an 8-10 minute presentation on their chosen primary source on OWL in Weeks 5-13. Presentations should give a preliminary analysis of the source and its relevance to the course, and engage the other students in virtual discussion. Full instructions are on OWL.

Film Analysis 15% Nov 14 by 11 p.m.

Students will choose one of the following films to analyze (1,000 words) in the context of the course:

Mrs. Miniver (1942) rent for \$4.99 on Youtube

Millions Like Us (1943) Facebook Watch

The Gentle Sex (1943), free on Youtube

The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943)
A Canterbury Tale (1944), rent on Itunes, free on Youtube
Hope and Glory (1987) <https://archive.org/details/Hope.and.Glory.1987>
Their Finest (2016), Netflix (subscription)
Atonement (2007), rent on Youtube
Mrs Henderson Presents (2005)

Contact the instructor if you'd like to choose your own. Full instructions are on OWL.

Final Paper (Take-Home Exam) 30%

Dec 7 by 11 p.m.

Students will be given an essay question (two weeks beforehand) to answer with specific reference to the course readings, themes and discussions (1,500 words). No outside research is required or permitted. No late exams will be accepted.

MODULE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Sept 12: Introduction

Sept 14: Lecture: Why Civilian Courage Matters

Read: Geoffrey Field, "Nights Underground in Darkest London: The Blitz, 1940-1941," *International Labor and Working-Class History*, No. 62 (2002), pp. 11-49 (39 pages). [OWL]

WEEK 2

Sept 19: Lecture: The Leadup to War

Read and Listen: The British Library Timeline

<https://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107681.html>

The General Strike (1926), The Great Depression (1929), Ghandi in Britain (1931), British Union of Fascists (1934), Appeasement (1938), Kristallnacht (1938), Wanted Poster for Hitler (1939).

Sept 21: Tutorial: Mass Observation Diaries on September 3, 1939 [OWL]

WEEK 3

Sept 26: Lecture: Phoney War, Evacuation and Internment

Read: Rachel Pistol, "I can't remember a more depressing time but I don't blame anyone for that": remembering and commemorating the wartime

internment of enemy aliens in Britain," *Patterns of Prejudice*, Vol. 53: No. 1 (2019): pp. 37-48. [OWL]

Sept 28: Tutorial: Equal Shares and Rationing (ration books, recipes, spam and war cake)

Read: "Rationing Directive, September 1939" [OWL]

WEEK 4

Oct 3: Lecture: **The Battle of Britain and the Blitz**

Read: A. Bell, "Landscapes of Fear: Wartime London, 1939-1945," *Journal of British Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (2009), pp. 153-175. (24 pages). [OWL]

Oct 5: Tutorial: ARP and Bomb Shelters

***** Primary Source Papers Due 25%*****

WEEK 5

Oct 10: No class: Thanksgiving Holiday

Oct 12: Lecture: **Wartime Fashion**

Read: Peter McNeil, "Put Your Best Face Forward': The Impact of the Second World War on British Dress," *Journal of Design History*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (1993), pp. 283-299 (17 pages). [OWL]

WEEK 6

Oct 17: Lecture: **Morale, Propaganda and Censorship**

Read: Jo Fox, "Careless Talk: Tensions within British Domestic Propaganda during the Second World War," *Journal of British Studies*, Vol. 51, No. 4 (2012): pp. 936-66. [OWL]

Oct 19: Tutorial: Propaganda Posters

WEEK 7

Oct 24: Lecture: **Social Life and Popular Culture**

Read: James Nott, "The Dancing Front: Dancing, Morale, and the War Effort in Britain during World War II," *Journal of Social History*, Vol.51, No. 2, (2017): pp.387-406 [OWL]

AND

BBC, "Music While you Work," 14 June, 1940. [OWL]

Oct 19: Tutorial: TBA

WEEK 8

Oct 31-Nov 2: **Reading Week**

WEEK 9

Nov 7/9: No Class Meeting this Week/ Watch Film for Review

WEEK 10

Nov 14: Lecture: **Children and the Family**

*****Film Review Due: 15%*****

Read: Winifred C. Cullis, "Impact of War upon British Home Life," *Marriage and Family Living*, Vol. 4, No. 1, Winter (Feb., 1942): pp. 10-11. [OWL]

AND: Berry Mayall and Virginia Morrow, "Children in Wartime" in *You Can Help Your Country: English Children's work during the Second World War* (2020). [OWL]

Nov 16: Tutorial: Children's Essays from the Zuckerman Archive [OWL]

WEEK 11

Nov 21: Lecture: **Violence and Crime**

Read: "Second World War: The Home Front: Black Market"

<https://spartacus-educational.com/2WWblackmarket.htm>

AND: Keith Simpson, "The Luton Sack Murder" *The Police Journal*, October 1, 1945. [OWL] Scroll to read pages **163- 173**.

Nov 23: Tutorial: Crime Case Study: The Luton Sack Murder. [OWL]

WEEK 12

Nov 28: Lecture: **1943-5: Sexual Patriotism, V-Rocket Raids and Postwar Planning**

Read: Wendy Webster, "Fit to Fight, Fit to Mix': sexual patriotism in Second World War Britain," *Women's History Review*, Vol. 22, No. 4, pp. 607-624 (2013) [OWL]

Nov 30: Tutorial: *A Diary for Timothy* (1945, 40 min).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UuaJPGee20>

Week 13

Dec 5: Lecture: **Victory and After**

Dec 7: No Class: * Final Papers Due*** 30%**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The History Department has specified that:

1. Accommodation will not be granted for missed classes.
2. All written assignments are to be submitted electronically following your professor's instructions. Students are responsible for making sure they are familiar with each professor's policy on electronic submissions.
3. Footnotes, endnotes and bibliographies are to be prepared according to the Departmental Guide (which follows).
4. Late marks are calculated on the copy submitted to OWL. Late penalties are calculated according to calendar day, including Saturdays.
5. Lateness will be penalized as follows: First day late -- 3 marks deduction. Each subsequent calendar day late -- 2 marks per day deduction to a maximum of 15% of the final assignment grade.
6. Unless Academic Consideration has been granted by the professor, assignments will not be accepted after one week. Extensions will only be given for assignments **worth more than 10%** once appropriate documentation has been submitted through Academic Advising.
7. Students must complete all essay assignments in order to pass essay courses. If essay assignments are not handed in, the default grade will be 48% or the cumulative average of the student, whichever is lower.
8. Assignments will not be accepted after the final date of the examination period unless the student has applied for – and received – incomplete standing
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/grades_undergrad.pdf

Guide to Footnotes and Bibliographies: Huron History Department

Footnotes have several purposes in a history paper:

- 1- They acknowledge your use of other peoples' opinions and ideas.
- 2- They allow the reader to immediately find your reference.
- 3- They give authority for a fact which might be questioned.
- 4- They tell the reader when a source was written.

Footnotes can appear either at the bottom of the page or collected together at the end of the essay where they are referred to as endnotes. The numeral indicating the footnotes should come at the end of the quotation or the sentence, usually as a superscript.¹

A footnote gives four main pieces of information which are set off by commas in the following order:

1. Author (surname *after* initials or first name),
2. Title
 - The title of a book is underlined or written in *italics*.
 - The title of an article is put within quotation marks, followed by the periodical in which it was published, underlined or in *italics*
- 3..Place and date of publication in parentheses (),
 - A fuller reference will include the publisher after the place of publication.
 - Article citations do not include the place of publication and publisher.
4. Page number (including volume number if necessary)

For example:

¹J.M.S. Careless, *Canada, A Story of Challenge* (Toronto, Macmillan Co. of Canada, 1970), 207.

²Basil Davidson, "Questions about Nationalism", *African Affairs* 76 (1977), 42.

In subsequent references, a shorter reference can be used. It should include the author's last name, a meaningful short title, and page numbers. For example:

³Careless, *Canada*, 179-206.

Where the reference is *exactly* the same as the preceding one, the Latin abbreviation *ibid.* can be used; where it is the same, but the page number is different, use *ibid.*, followed by the relevant page number. However, the short title form is preferable for subsequent references and the use of other Latin abbreviations such as *op.cit.* is not recommended.

Examples:

a) for a book by a single author: Author, title (place of publication: press, year), p#.

Elizabeth Wilson, *Shostakovich: A Life Remembered* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994), 324.

¹ They should be in Arabic, not Roman numerals or letters.

b) for an article in a book that has chapters by different people: Author, "title of chapter," in title of book, ed. editor's name (place of publication: press, year), total pages of article, page number you are referencing.

Elizabeth Heinemann, "The Hour of the Woman: Memories of Germany's 'Crisis Years' and West German National Identity," in *The Miracle Years: A Cultural History of West Germany, 1949-1968*, ed. Hanna Schissler (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), 21-56, 34.

c) for an article in a journal, magazine, or newspaper: Author, "title of article," title of periodical, vol. # , issue # (year): total pages, the page you are referencing.

Gale Stokes, "The Social Origins of East European Politics," *Eastern European Politics and Societies* 1, 1 (1987): 30-74, 65.

d) for an old work that has been reissued: Try to find a way to include the original publication date somewhere. The easiest method is to use brackets.

Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Trans. and ed. James Strachey (New York: Avon Books, 1965 [1900]), 175.

Bibliography

All the works you consulted, not just those cited in the footnotes, should be included in the bibliography. You may be required to prepare an annotated bibliography, in which you comment on the contents, utility, or worth of each source. If so, make sure you understand what the instructor expects, in particular the length as well as the nature of each annotation.

Generally, list the sources in alphabetical order, by author. The format for a bibliography is similar to that for footnotes, except that the author's surname *precedes* the other names and initials, periods instead of commas are used to divide the constituent parts, publication data is not put in brackets, and pages numbers are not included except in the case of articles where the full page reference is necessary. For example:

Careless, J.M.S. *The Union of the Canadas. The Growth of Canadian Institutions 1841-1857*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1967.

Davidson, Basil. "Questions about Nationalism". *African Affairs* 76 (1977), 39-46.

Sources: University of Toronto Guide to Undergraduate Essays.

<http://www.history.utoronto.ca/undergraduate/essays.html#footnotes>. Accessed October 22, 2012.

Professor Julie Hessler's Guide to Footnotes: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hessler/>. Accessed October 22, 2012.

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic](#)

[Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca) .The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academic-support.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect

documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>
Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)