History 7392: Archives, Public Affairs, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (3 credit hours)

When: Wednesdays, 8:30-11:30, Fall term
Where: Migizii Agamik boardroom (second floor)

Professor Greg Bak
Office: 247 St. John’s College
Phone: 272-1578
Email: greg.bak@ad.umanitoba.ca
Office hours: Thursdays, 9:00-12:00, or by appointment.

Archival Studies Program website:
http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/history/archives/index.html

Prerequisites: This is a graduate course in History. Non-History graduate students can take the course with permission of the instructor.

Course Information

Description (from course calendar): This course will explore connections between archives and public affairs. It will include an in-depth examination of the many and varied archival issues that inform the origins, operations and goals of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Course Objectives:

Archival records, those building blocks of history, have histories of their own. This course explores how archives are created and managed, and the roles of archival records and archival processes in public affairs. This course does not offer a straightforward history of Canada’s Indian residential schools policy.

We will consider how archival management practices can become barriers to the use of archives for social justice, and explore how archivists can adjust their practices to better enable such use of archival records. While maintaining a principal focus on the archival history and archival management of records related to Canada’s Indian residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, other Canadian and international examples will be raised.
The course is organised around three major themes: archives and reconciliation; accountability through archives; and community archives and archival responsibility.

The course combines seminar-based discussions with visits to local archives and discussions with archivists.

**Required Textbook(s):**

Students are required to purchase the following books from the bookstore:


In addition to these books, students will make use of journal articles, books and other materials from UManitoba Libraries and from the open Internet.

**Recommended Readings:** I will supply reading lists of required and supplementary readings. Most of these materials will be available either online or electronically through the library.

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Ongoing throughout term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6-8 pages</td>
<td>Friday, October 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2-5 pages</td>
<td>Friday, November 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4-6 pages</td>
<td>Friday, November 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10-15 pages</td>
<td>Monday, December 2</td>
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**Seminar participation** is worth 30% of your grade. Participation consists of taking part in class discussions, both in the classroom and on Desire2Learn. To participate in a seminar you must have completed all of the assigned readings and have prepared a critical response to the readings. On weeks when you are assigned an *individual reading*, you should be ready to deliver a short (5 minute) overview of the main themes of the work, and to discuss how it relates to the common readings and seminar themes.

The first assignment is worth 20% of your grade and consists of a 6-8 page response to Theodore Fontaine’s *Broken Circle*, a memoir of his years in an Indian Residential School. Your response should be structured into two sections. In the first section, discuss your reactions to Fontaine’s book, including how it confirmed, changed or challenged your understanding of IRS, settler-aboriginal relations in Canada and Canadian history in general. The second section should discuss the insights that Fontaine’s book provides into the archival challenges created by the Indian Residential School system. In this section you should consider the kinds of records (differing by provenance, media, nature, etc.) that you would need for a balanced IRS archive,
the communities that would have an interest in such an archive, and the challenges that archives face in making such records available and accessible in culturally appropriate ways.

The second assignment ("It’s on the Web") is worth 20% of your grade and consists of a 8-10 page paper. It requires that you work directly with residential school records while considering the difference between making the records available and making them accessible.

The essay proposal is worth 5% of your grade and will be 2-5 pages in length. It consists of a 250 word abstract and a preliminary bibliography for an essay that will present a practical definition of reconciliation and discuss how archives can contribute to reconciliation within the terms of this definition.

The term paper is worth 25% of your grade and should be 10-15 pages. It will develop the paper described in your essay proposal, taking into account the feedback provided on the proposal.

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal (VW) date of Nov. 13, 2013.

Grade Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>85% and over</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>66-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 50%</td>
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Referencing Style Guide: The style guide for Archivaria (available at the Association of Canadian Archivists' website) is used in this course. See: http://www.archivists.ca/sites/default/files/Attachments/Communications_attachments/Archivaria/Archivaria_Style_Guide-Jan2010.pdf

Late Assignments: One mark will be lost for each day the assignment is overdue.

Faculty Policy on Uncollected work: Uncollected term work will become the property of the Department of History and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Academic Integrity:

University policy on academic integrity will be enforced. A full description of academic integrity matters, including plagiarism and cheating, can be found in Section 8 of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements of the University of Manitoba.
Syllabus at a Glance
5 September – start of term

Unit 1: Introduction

Sept 11  1.1 Course Overview/Introduction
a. Syllabus, course policies
   Guests: Carl Stone and Garry Robson, Migizii Agamik
b. IRS and apologies
   Guest: Deborah Young, Exec Lead, Indigenous Achievement

Sept 18  1.2 Setting the Context
   Guest: Marlene Atleo, Education
   a. IRS History
   b. Presentation by Marlene Atleo

Unit 2: Archives and Reconciliation

Sept 25  2.1 TRC
   a. TRC Operations
   b. TRC National Research Centre

Oct 2   2.2 Reconciliation?
   a. Apologies
   b. Reconciliation?

Oct 9   2.3 South Africa’s TRC
   Guest: Verne Harris, Dir, Nelson Mandela Ctr of Memory (Skype)
   a. Archives & apartheid
   b. South Africa’s TRC: archival issues

Unit 3: Accountability through Archives?

Oct 16  3.1 Why records are created and kept
   Guest: Art Miki, former Pres, Ntl Assoc of Japanese Canadians
   a. Records follow functions/records enable functions
   b. Records as evidence

Oct 23  3.2 Access to records
   Guest: Karen Busby, Director, Centre for Human Rights Research
   a. Public access: theory and legal requirements
   b. Tools for access

Oct 30  3.3 The IRS records universe
   a. Institutional records
   b. Aboriginal archives
Nov 6 3.4 Navigating the IRS records universe

**Guest: Anne Lindsay, Independent Archival Consultant**

a. What has been preserved and what has been lost? What should have been preserved?
b. Imagining an archives that goes beyond a simple storage model

**Unit 4: Community Archives and Archival Responsibility**

Nov 13

4.1 Who owns archival records?

a. Societal provenance
b. Protocols

13 Nov – *VW for Fall courses*

Nov 20

4.2 Community archives

**Guest: Kiera Ladner, Political Science**

a. Theory
b. Practice

Nov 27

4.3 Archives and Storytelling 1

**Guest: Struan Sinclair, English, Film and Theatre**

a. Archival description and outreach as narrations
b. Contemporary narrativities

Dec 4

4.4 Archives and Storytelling 2

**Guest: Richard Atleo**

a. Traditional knowledge and storytelling
b. Indigenous Knowledge and archives

4 Dec – *term ends*