Draft Description: History 254 is designed to give an overview of the events, personalities and controversies that have helped to shape modern Canada from its inception in 1867 to the end of the twentieth century. Students will be encouraged, and expected, to develop critical thinking and effective writing skills. A list of potential term essay topics will be provided, but students are encouraged to develop their own topic if an unlisted subject is of interest. Such topics, however, will have to be approved by me to make sure that they are feasible in terms of scope and research. The final exam will test how effectively students have absorbed the information provided in the text, lectures, and seminar discussions and how well they can apply that knowledge to develop sound historical arguments.

Learning Objectives:
Through the lectures, readings, and seminar discussions students are intended to develop a testable understanding of how the modern Canadian state progressed through its domestic and international influences between 1867-1995.

The annotated bibliography assignment and the seminar discussions are intended to sharpen how students approach historical sources, as well as instil an understanding that all sources must be scrutinized rather than accepted at face value. Furthermore, these assignments should develop the ability of the student to understand that there are numerous approaches and debates to how Canadian history is written and understood.

The written essay should help foster students’ ability to write thoughtfully as well as their ability to analyze research questions.

Required Text:
Destines: Canadian History Since Confederation by Robert Wardaugh and Alan MacEachern.

I ordered it to the bookstore in early October and chances are it should be on the shelves soon enough as the Winter term approaches.