

History of Ideas (1800 to Today)

2021-22

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Week 1, Wed. 12:00

Welcome to the History of Ideas and thank you for registering. We look forward to a workshop full of wide-ranging ideas, interesting presentations and much lively discussion.

How is this topic organized?

The History of Ideas is the multidisciplinary study of ideas, thought and discoveries that have had a major impact on history and subsequent intellectual development, and also of the thinkers, writers, scientists, artists and philosophers involved. In making your 20-30 minute presentation to the group, you might choose to focus on a thinker (eg. Darwin), or an idea (eg. Evolution) or a related set of ideas (modern evolutionary theory). Each presentation is followed by a 20-30 minute period of questions and discussion, for a total of 50 minutes.

What references are available?

We recommend two recent books on the history of ideas by Peter Watson.

The Modern Mind: An Intellectual History of Twentieth Century. 2000, 847 pp.; 10 copies in Toronto Public Library, including 3 ebooks. One version of this book is titled ***A Terrible Beauty.***

Ideas: A History of Thought and Invention from Fire to Freud. As you can tell from the title, this book covers a vast span of history; our interest are those sections covering the 19th and 20th centuries. 2005, 822 pp.; 2 copies in TPL.

We also encourage you to look further afield if Watson does not cover a topic of interest – or even if he does! Also please feel free to speak with David or myself about any aspect of your presentation. If you would like some assistance in choosing a topic or shaping a theme, Martin and David will be pleased to help.

Presenters are asked to provide background on their topic two weeks before the presentation date so that participants can prepare. If one of the Watson books covers your choice, members will be encouraged to read him as background. Otherwise, please provide a short text for that purpose. A Wikipedia article or youtube video are often helpful.

What now?

Once you have selected your topic, contact Martin with the subject and date on which you wish to present. The Presentation Schedule will be updated throughout the summer and e-mailed to all members from time to time. (Contact Martin so that there is only one copy of the schedule being updated.)

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

<https://allto.ca/history-of-ideas-1800-today/>