**History 2302G Research Essay and Social Media Conference Reflection**

***Dawn of Tomorrow* Project**

This project is a continuation of a community-based research partnership between Huron History classes and the London Public Library. The main research objective is to produce a digital edition of selected issues of the *Dawn of Tomorrow* (including contextual material and scholarly annotations) and to publish this resource as an online and open-access research archive. The project is funded through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant on the Black Press in Canada.

**Where does the project fit in the course?**

The *Dawn of Tomorrow* was a Black newspaper published in London, Ontario beginning in 1923. Its founding editor was an African American, James Jenkins, who came to London from Chicago and envisioned the *Dawn of Tomorrow* in the Black Press tradition of papers such as the *New York Age* and the *Chicago Defender.* In the pages of the *Dawn of Tomorrow*, you will see course themes from the fresh, and astonishingly under-explored perspective of local history, and will have the opportunity to explore historical connections and the themes of race, activism, and identity across the Canada-US border. Work with primary sources and local materials brings an immediacy to the themes of the course that is unmatched by reading texts and secondary materials. By participating in a public history project, you will gain experience in communicating the results and importance of your research to others, and develop a critical understanding of how and why our knowledge of the past matters in contemporary discussions of race, justice, and identity.

**Research Activity (Research Essay 25% Due March 26 Collaborative CURL post 5% Due March 19)**

Fortunately, previous classes of Huron students and research assistants have already digitised the files that we will need for this assignment. Using the files available [here](http://www.blackpress.huronresearch.ca/items/browse), each of you is responsible for choosing one news article from the *Dawn of Tomorrow* between 1923 and 1926, and writing a **research essay** that addresses the question: “What does this article contribute to a critical understanding of the themes of race and civil rights in American history?” The research essay (1200-1300 words) should include an **annotated bibliography** of secondary sources. Keep in mind that you can use any article or advertisement that you choose, and that some items will require more research than others in order to help you explain and construct an argument about their significance.

The assignment asks you to rely on online research conducted through the library website where you will find research guides to American history and Black history, as well as key databases and search strategies for secondary sources in the field. While it is fine to read a general reference work, such as Wikipedia, for help in getting started with your research, please don’t rely on reference works when you write the paper. They are a step toward research, but using them does not constitute research. Keep in mind that your bibliography should include scholarly sources (journal articles and books).

In addition, you are asked to think about the research process working in groups of 2 to produce an Instagram post for the Spring CURL (Centre for Undergraduate Learning) Student Conference. **The post and accompanying image or video is due on March 19**. Further instructions can be found in the CURL submission guide posted on our course OWL site.