

Guidelines for Students Majoring in the Historical Studies Program

Welcome to the Historical Studies program!

This file serves to help students majoring in Historical Studies navigate their way through the program. The file also offers suggestions on how to get involved in the campus and in the community. This file contains the following parts:

- I. The Components of the Program
- II. One Potential Road-Map for a Student Majoring in Historical Studies
- III. Campus Life outside the Classroom

Please note that you need to be familiar with the MUN calendar, not only for the Historical Studies program at the Grenfell Campus (found on p. 187 of the 2020-2021 calendar), but also the other calendar provisions pertaining to programs, courses, residency requirements, and so on. Course descriptions for the program can be found on pp. 231-233.

I. The Components of the Program

1. HIST 1100 and 1101, Introduction to History, Parts One and Two

It is best to take these courses in first year (HIST 1100 in the fall semester; HIST 1101 in the winter semester). It is better, although not absolutely required, to take the two courses in the appropriate sequence, rather than doing HIST 1101 first (HIST 1100 seeks to *introduce* students to studying historical materials and writing about the past, whereas HIST 1101 aims to *refine and develop* those skills).

2. Eight 2xxx/3xxx level courses (four for Early Western History and four for Later Western History)

Early Western history in this framework is defined as roughly pre-1800 and Later Western history as roughly post-1800. It would be wise to take these courses in second and third year of the program. There is not a great deal of difference between the 2xxx and 3xxx level for these courses, except for minor differences in assignment and reading loads; also, the 2xxx-level courses tend to be survey courses, whereas the 3xxx-level courses are more thematic and specific. There are several courses in other disciplines (e.g. Classics, Anthropology) that are cross-listed with Historical Studies. Cross-listed courses can be used to fulfill the requirements for your minor (e.g., Classics/History 2040 can be used for a minor in Classics).

Faculty in our program unit sometimes teach courses that are on the St. John's history course roster, but not on the Grenfell course roster (e.g. HIST 2140 The Atlantic Slave Trade). However, these courses can be counted towards a Historical Studies degree. What is required in this instance is that the student request that the Chair of Historical Studies write a letter to the appropriate committee for the course to be counted for the Historical Studies degree (in most instances, the chair will

request a bulk waiver for the course for all Historical Studies majors enrolled in it). To make another point, the program has adopted several of these St. John's history courses permanently (e.g., HIST 3370, 3380, 3801, and 3807).

The unit also is developing a series of courses that can be counted as either an Early or a Later Western history course (e.g., HIST 3551 The Tudors, Historical Memory, and Film). The specific Early or Later designation is worked out when the audit is conducted for the student's course roster.

3. HIST 3840 Historical Methods

This course is offered only once every two years, so you should take it as soon as you are ready and have the necessary pre-requisites. It is excellent preparation for the course HIST 4950 Independent Project or HIST 4951 and 4952 Advanced Research Essay I and II; therefore, it is always better to take HIST 3840 before HIST 4950 or HIST 4951/4952.

4. Two 4xxx HIST seminars

There is only one dedicated history 4xxx-level seminar offered every year (typically in the fall semester). So, if you are in third year, you should take one of these 4xxx-level history seminars, and then the second one in fourth year. There are Visual Arts 4xxx-level seminars as well that are cross-listed (HIST/VART 4730 and 4731, two parts of Modern Art). You can take these instead of the specifically HIST 4xxx seminars if you have the VART prerequisites; and some of these pre-requisites, such as HIST 2700 Art History Survey I, are cross-listed as history courses.

5. Senior Project: i) HIST 4950 Independent Project or ii) HIST 4951 and HIST 4952 Advanced Research Essay I and I

It is best to start thinking about your Senior Project before the start of the semester in question. There are specific stipulations for these courses on the program website. See the website:

<https://www.grenfell.mun.ca/academics-and-research/Pages/school-of-arts-and-social-science/programs/historical-studies/independent.aspx>

There are two options for the Senior Project:

i) HIST4950

This option can be taken in the fall or winter semester of your final year, although typically students take the course in the winter semester of their fourth year. It is important to have completed HIST 3840 as well as nine other history courses before enrolling in HIST 4950. HIST4950 involves a thesis proposal, annotated bibliography, and outline, which is then followed by the research for the project, the writing of the essay draft, and an oral presentation.

ii) HIST 4951 and HIST 4952

The program has created a new stream for the Senior Project that spans two courses, and this stream will go airborne in the fall 2020 semester. Specifically, the courses HIST 4951 and 4952 (Advanced Research Essay I and II, respectively) offers students the ability to pursue a more extensive project over two semesters and present it in written and oral form. If you choose this stream, you need both courses, HIST 4951 and HIST 4952. In HIST 4951, you will acquire a knowledge of the scholarship in your chosen field of study and then develop essay proposal. In HIST 4952, the second part, you will pursue the research for the essay and then write the essay (which would be longer than the essay required for HIST 4950). An oral presentation of the essay is required as well. Students who take HIST 4951 and HIST 4952 will be required to do only four courses in the history-related disciplines, instead of five.

As with HIST 4950, it is important to have completed HIST 3840 as well as nine other history courses before enrolling in HIST 4951.

Which option is best for you? The HIST 4951/4952 is an option for the senior project that is particularly well suited to those students who wish to delve into a topic in greater depth and who are considering graduate school. HIST 4951/4952 is similar to an Honours thesis and the professors who write your letters of reference can make that point. Nevertheless, students majoring in Historical Studies have had good success gaining entrance to post-graduate programs having taken HIST 4950.

6. The Five Courses in Disciplines Related to History

Students majoring in Historical Studies are required to take courses from a list of courses from disciplines such as anthropology, classics, English, French, and sociology. The number of courses required for the Historical Studies major depends on the route that the student chooses for the senior research project. Those students who opt for HIST 4950 Independent Project are required to take five courses from this list; students who choose HIST 4951/4952 are required to take only four of these courses. These courses in related disciplines have been chosen because they have some historical content in them and thus can offer Historical Studies majors some degree of breadth and interdisciplinarity. These courses are generally at the first, second, third, and fourth-year level.

Some of these courses can be used for your minor as well. For example, if you are doing a minor in Sociology, then taking Sociology 1000 would count towards your minor in Sociology as well as your major in Historical Studies as one of the history-related courses. Double-counting the course in this way will give you more flexibility with your electives; you would need to do twelve electives instead of eleven (in order to make a total of 40 courses/120 credit hours for your B.A. degree). However, in this list of history-related courses, you cannot take more than two from the same discipline.

The current list can be found on the Historical Studies website:

<https://www.grenfell.mun.ca/academics-and-research/Pages/school-of-arts-and-social-science/programs/historical-studies/non-history-required-courses.aspx>

This list recently has been updated (with more courses added). Students who have taken courses that are no longer on the revised list will still be able to count them towards their Historical Studies degree (as this updated list will be “grandfathered” in).

Other Components of the Historical Studies Degree

1. Remaining Electives

Typically, students will need to take eleven electives in order to arrive at a total of 40 courses/120 credit hours required for the B.A. degree (in addition to the two first-year English courses that students in the School of Arts and Social Science are required to take). Students have a great deal of flexibility with regards to their electives. Please note that many of your breadth requirements also will serve as electives.

2. The Minor

You should declare your minor in your second year at the latest. The reason for doing so is that if you decide on a minor too late in your program, you may have to do additional courses over and above the required forty courses in order to meet the program requirements for the minor. Some of the non-history courses that you have already taken, for example in first year, can be used for your minor, depending on the minor chosen.

The MUN Calendar also notes the following, “A student may devise a Major/Minor of one's own choosing in close consultation with a faculty advisor and with approval of appropriate dean. Such ‘open’ programs must be approved by the School Committee on Academic Appeals [now the Committee on Student Academic Affairs for SASS].” Applicable courses taken for the minor can now be double-counted for the Historical Studies major.

Grenfell Core Requirements

1. Two English courses at the 1xxx-level, English 1000 and 1001 or equivalent

It is best to do these courses in the first year of your program, as they offer valuable writing practice and instruction that can be applied to your history courses.

2. Two Group A courses (Arts Breadth of Knowledge requirement)

This is a requirement that is easy to fulfill for Historical Studies students, since all history courses meet this requirement. However, the two first-year English courses noted above cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

3. Two Group B courses (Social Sciences Breadth of Knowledge requirement)

This is usually an easy requirement to fulfill, because many of the courses in the list of history-related courses fit this requirement (e.g. Sociology 1000). Alternatively, these Group B courses can serve as two of your eleven electives (e.g. Psychology 1000).

4. Two Group C Courses (Sciences Breadth of Knowledge requirement)

You should try to do these two courses before you reach fourth year; they can be challenging courses for history students, because Group C courses tend to be quite different from Arts courses in content. There are both lab and non-lab courses to choose from. In second and third year, it would be a good idea to do either one Group C or one QRA requirement for each of the four semesters.

These two Group C courses can count as two of the electives required for the B.A. degree. However, the Group C courses cannot be double-counted as the two required QRA courses, discussed below.

5. Two QRA Courses (Quantitative Analysis and Reasoning).

There are quite a number of courses outside of mathematics and statistics that fulfill this requirement (e.g., Sociology 3040 Introduction to the Methods of Social Research). Considering that the discipline of history is in part a social science, these QRA courses can be quite useful depending on the career path that you take.

You should try to do these two courses before you reach fourth year; they can be challenging courses for history students, because QRA courses tend to be quite different from Arts courses in content. In second and third year, it would be a good idea to do either one Group C or one QRA requirement for each of the four semesters.

These two QRA courses can count as two of the electives required for the B.A. degree. However, QRA courses that are in the science disciplines (e.g., mathematics) cannot be doubled-counted to meet your Group C breadth requirement.

6. Ten courses for the Literacy Requirement

Students are required to take ten courses that are designated as writing courses. This is an easy requirement for students majoring in Historical Studies since all history courses offered at Grenfell Campus count as writing courses.

Other things to remember

1. Towards the end of the first term of your third year, it would be a very good idea to request that the Registrar do an audit of the courses that you have taken thus far with recommendations for the courses you need to take in order to finish the degree in a timely manner.
2. The MUN online calendar is updated every year, but late changes to the program sometimes do not make it into the calendar for the next academic year. The program chair also sends updates through e-mail to students in the program.
3. There is also the multi-year of history courses that can be found on the Historical Studies website. See the website: <https://www.grenfell.mun.ca/academics-and->

research/Pages/school-of-arts-and-social-science/programs/historical-studies/four-year-cycle.aspx

4. Be sure to meet with the Historical Studies program chair once per academic year in order to discuss your program and to discuss potential career paths. Having a career path in mind will give greater purpose to your studies and will give you a sense of direction and a greater goal. You also can take specific courses at the undergraduate level to help familiarize yourself with your chosen career (e.g., if you were thinking of Museum Studies as a post-graduate program, then taking courses in visual arts and ethnography would help, and some of these courses are cross-listed with history courses). The program chair has a great deal of information on careers in history and related fields as well as what former graduates of the program have done with their degrees. Information on career paths can be found on the Historical Studies website:
<https://www.grenfell.mun.ca/academics-and-research/Pages/school-of-arts-and-social-science/programs/historical-studies/careers.aspx>
5. We will help you as much as we can, but ultimately it is the student's responsibility to ensure that he/she is following the program requirements and university calendar regulations correctly.

II. One Potential Road-Map for a Student Majoring in Historical Studies

Please note that the following road-map represents only one approach (there is more than one to work through a Historical Studies degree)

YEAR ONE

fall semester

- HIST 1100 Introduction to History, Part One
- ENGL 1000 or equivalent
- one course in area of interest/elective
- one course in area of interest/elective
- one course in area of interest/elective

winter semester

- HIST 1101 Introduction to History, Part Two
- ENGL 1001 or equivalent
- one course in areas of interest/elective
- one course in areas of interest/elective
- one course in areas of interest/elective

YEAR TWO

fall semester

- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course

- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course
- one course in QRA/Group C (elective)
- one course for minor
- one of five HIST-related courses

winter semester

- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course
- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course
- one course in QRA/Group C (elective)
- one course for minor
- one of five HIST-related courses

YEAR THREE

fall semester

- HIST 3840
- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course
- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course
- one course in QRA/Group C (elective)
- one course for minor

winter semester

- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course
- one HIST 2xxx/3xxx course
- one course in QRA/Group C (elective)
- one course for minor
- one HIST 4xxx seminar

YEAR FOUR

fall semester

- one HIST 4xxx seminar
- one of five HIST-related courses
- one of five HIST-related courses
- one course for minor
- one course for minor

winter semester

- HIST 4950
- one of five HIST-related courses
- one elective
- one course for minor
- one course for minor

Notes:

- There are several variations to designing a course roster and roadmap for the four years of your degree, depending on the electives taken
- Many of the electives or history-related courses should be able to fulfill the two required Group B requirements
- The Group C and QRA courses count as electives

III. Campus Life outside the Classroom

University is not just about making a student strong academically; we also try to make the individual well rounded and engaged in the campus and in the community. In any case, it is a good idea to “change gears” about once a day for an hour or two to do something different besides studying in the library and attending classes. It is also important and helpful to develop fun activities to counteract the effects of school stress. Here are some ideas:

- Join a sports team (exercise and sports will help your concentration, your sleep patterns, and your overall sense of well-being)
- Embrace winter activities such as snowshoeing and skiing (the campus offers several low-cost excursions to various skiing sites close to Corner Brook); winter is very long, so one might as well try to enjoy it!
- Join the student Historical Society (this is a wonderful group of students who meet and plan events, such as fundraisers, film nights, trivia nights, and so on; it is also a great way to meet students in the program)
- Join a community group such as the Western Environment Center or the Rotary Club
- If you are musical or have acting abilities, there are musical choruses like the Bay of Islands Musical Arts Chorus as well as theater groups such as the Broadway Players
- Attend campus events such as International Night or talks given by guest speakers

If you have any questions, feel free to ask!

Good luck!

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