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. 172 of the 2018-2019 calendar), but also the other calendar provisions pertaining to programs, courses, residency requirements, and so on.

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 3801 Modern Revolutions). 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). For example, HIST 3801 would be counted as a Later Western History course. To make another point, the program is in the process of adopting several of these St. John’s history courses permanently.

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; therefore, it is always better to take HIST 3840 before HIST 4950.

4. **Two 4xxx HIST seminars**
   
   There is only one dedicated history 4xxx-level seminar offered every year (typically in the winter 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. **HIST 4950 Independent Project**
   
   There are specific stipulations for this course on the program website. It is best to start thinking about your project for this course before the semester starts. See the website:


   The program is creating a new stream for the Independent Project that spans two courses, but if approved the new stream will not go airborne until the academic year 2020-2021 (watch for details before then, however).

6. **The Five Courses in Disciplines Related to History**
   
   Students majoring in Historical Studies are required to take five courses from a list of courses from disciplines such as anthropology, classics, English, French, and sociology. These courses 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 five 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 program unit is in the process of updating this list, removing a few courses that are no longer taught and adding new ones. The current list can be found on the Historical Studies website:


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].”

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 four-year plan 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.

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 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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