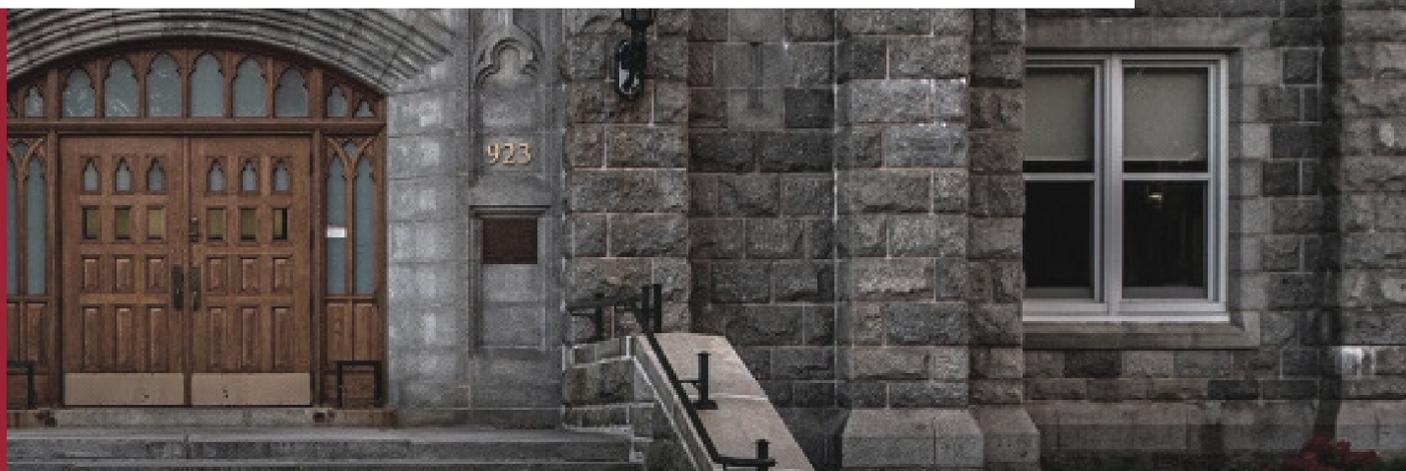




SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Department of History Honours Handbook



The Honours Program

Students interested in completing a more advanced undergraduate degree should consider applying to our Honours program. Honours students work closely with professors in small 4000-level seminars on a variety of themes. They benefit from individual attention and have the opportunity to pursue research interests under the guidance of a member of the History Department to produce the Honours thesis. Students will be required to consult primary sources allowing them to hone their research skills. For self-motivated students, the Honours thesis presents an opportunity to follow a particular passion from the research stage through to the satisfaction of a well written thesis.

Those students considering pursuing their studies at the graduate level should also consider enrolling in the Honours program. It offers an ideal preparation for graduate school. Many Saint Mary's history Honours students have advanced to Master's level work at universities in Canada and abroad. Some are currently in PhD programs. While an Honours degree can serve as the first step for those considering an academic career, it also can serve as a prerequisite for other university programs. An Honours degree thus opens doors to other career opportunities. Having had the experience of conducting more advanced research signals to a wide range of employers that they will have an employee that is self-motivated, disciplined, dedicated and trained to analyze and make sense of a wide range of information. These are qualities and skills prized, among others, by government, museums, libraries, consulting firms, and news organizations.

Honours Program Requirements

Prerequisites:

To be considered for the Honours program in History, students must:

- have a minimum 3.00 GPA.
- be a declared History Major.
- have 18 credit hours in History or 60 credit hours in the BA.

To graduate with Honours, students must:

- obtain and maintain a cumulative gpa of 3.0 or higher as well as a cumulative pga in History courses of 3.30 or higher.
- Satisfy the requirements of the History Major.
- Complete 12.0 credit hours above the 1000 level of which at least 9.0 are at the 4000 level
- Complete HIST 4500 The Honours Seminar (6.0 credit hours) with a grade of 3.3 or higher

Students who have taken more history courses than those required to graduate with a History Major can have them count towards their Honours degree if they meet that degree's requirements.

Application Process

Students must apply to the Honours program by filling out an Honours application form available here: <https://www.smu.ca/academics/honours-and-programs.html>

The application must be submitted to the Honours Coordinator.

For information about Transcripts, Academic Timetables, Schedules, Financial Aid you should contact:

Service Center

Tel: (902) 420-5582

service.center@smu.ca (Transcripts, Academic Timetables, and Schedules)

financial.aid@smu.ca (Scholarships, Bursaries, and Student Loans)

Honours Seminar and Thesis

HIST 4500.0 The Honours Seminar

This seminar is the year-long compulsory core course of the program and is taught by the Honours Coordinator. Emphasis is placed on research skills, historical methods and approaches, theories of history and the use of sources and evidence. In this course, in consultation with their Supervisor, students receive practical information about how to draft their thesis proposal, annotated bibliography and secondary literature review which will help them develop and write their Honours thesis.

Students will be evaluated on their participation, coursework and presentations as well as the Honours thesis. The Honours Thesis is worth 50% of the final grade for the course.

Timeline for the Honours Seminar and Thesis

- By mid-September - select a topic and supervisor. It is the responsibility of each Honours History student to find a supervisor for their thesis. The Coordinator is available to provide advice and guidance on the choice of an appropriate supervisor for each topic, but the responsibility of obtaining the consent of the supervisor lies with the student. The student should submit a consent form signed by the supervisor to the Honours Coordinator by 1 October.
- Consult our information below to find out more about the Department faculty members' fields of study and areas of expertise.
- By early October - submit a first draft of the thesis proposal to Supervisor and Honours Coordinator
- By the end of October - deadline for revised thesis proposal and annotated bibliography to be submitted to Supervisor and Honours Coordinator.

- In mid-November - present the revised thesis proposal to the Honours Seminar for discussion.
- By last day of classes in Winter Term - submit thesis to Supervisor. They will provide comments and suggestions. Following that provide a copy to the Honours Coordinator.

The Honours Thesis should be approximately 50 pages long excluding bibliography, up to a maximum of 60 pages.

Following final revisions, the student will supply two copies of their thesis to the Honours Coordinator: one for the Department and one for the Supervisor. Copies need to be double spaced with good-sized margins and single sided, not double sided. Details about theses formatting can be found on the University archives website at:

<http://www.smu.ca/academics/archives/honours-thesis.html>

For information regarding our 4000 level courses, please go to our website at

http://www.smu.ca/academics/departments/history_programs-current-courses.html#4000

Role and Responsibilities of the Supervisor

The supervisor should have some background in the time period, region or historical theme which the student hopes to research. The supervisor will meet with the student on a regular basis to direct and help in the research process. A supervisor will also provide written and oral feedback on the thesis proposal and drafts of the thesis. The Supervisor will be one of the examiners of the thesis at the Honours Thesis Defense. Should the Honours Coordinator also be the supervisor, the Chair or another member of the History Department will act as advisor to the student and as co-examiner of the thesis at the Honours Thesis Defense at the end of the academic year.

Role and Responsibilities of the Honours Coordinator

The Honours Coordinator provides advice to students on potential supervisors for their areas of research interest. The Honours Coordinator is also a resource for the students and teaches the Honours Seminar (HST 4500) which provides a forum for Honours students to share their research experiences. The Honours Coordinator assesses the student's performance in the Honours seminar on the basis of course assignments, the thesis proposal, seminar presentation and contributions to the seminar in consultation with the supervisor. The Honours Coordinator also acts as co-examiner of the thesis alongside the supervisor at the Honours Thesis Defense.

Role and Responsibilities of the Honours Student

The student is responsible for selecting the thesis topic and approaching a professor to obtain their consent to act as a supervisor for the Honours Thesis. The student must attend the Honours Seminar, keep up with any assigned readings, contribute regularly to discussion, as well as present their research to the seminar. The student is also responsible for providing the supervisor with regular drafts of their thesis well in advance of the final deadline.

Thinking about Graduate Studies?

For students thinking about pursuing their studies at the graduate level upon completion of their Honours degree, it is important to keep in mind that several funding deadlines appear in the Fall previous to the following academic year. You can consult:

- The SMU History Department's Graduate Handbook for information about the SMU Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research funding opportunities, prerequisites for the MA program, and course selection.

There are other funding agencies to consider including:

- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship Program located at https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp
Contact the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for the current deadlines.

History Department Members & Areas of Expertise

Administrative Assistant

Susan Haines

history@smu.ca

Faculty

Rosana Barbosa

B.A. (Universidade Santa Ursula, Brazil), M.A. (Toronto), Ph.D. (Toronto)

Latin America, Brazil, Migration and Brazilian-Canadian Relations

Rosana.Barbosa@smu.ca

Blake Brown

B.A. (Acadia), M.A. (York), LL.B. (Toronto), M.A. (Toronto), Ph.D. (Dalhousie)

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Canada, Legal History, Nova Scotia

Blake.Brown@smu.ca

Leslie Digdon

B.A. (Mount Saint Vincent), M.A. (Dalhousie University), Ph.D. (University of Saskatchewan)

History of science and technology

leslie.digdon@smu.ca

Kirrily Freeman

Honours and Graduate Program Coordinator

B.A. (University of Guelph), M.Sc. (University of Edinburgh), Ph.D. (University of Waterloo)

Modern Europe, France, Social and Cultural History

Kirrily.Freeman@smu.ca

Heather Green

B.A. (Cape Breton University), M.A. (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Ph.D. (University of Alberta)

Environmental, Indigenous, Northern Canada, mining, tourism, health

Heather.Green@smu.ca

Karly Kehoe

Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities

B.A. Honours (Saint Mary's University), Ph.D. (University of Glasgow)

Religion, Migration, and Minority Identities in the British Atlantic

Karly.kehoe@smu.ca

Shira Lurie

B.A., M.A. (University of Western Ontario), Ph.D. (University of Virginia)

US History, Popular Protest

Shira.Lurie@smu.ca

James Morrison, Professor Emeritus

B.A., B.Ed. (Acadia) Ph.D. (Ibadan)

Atlantic World, Africa, Ethnicity and Immigration

James.Morrison@smu.ca

Nicole Neatby

B.A. (Ottawa), MA (Queen's), Ph.D. (Montréal)

Modern Canada, Quebec, Canadian Women, Public History

Nicole.Neatby@smu.ca

John G. Reid, Professor Emeritus

B.A. (Oxford), MA (Memorial), Ph.D. (New Brunswick)

Colonial Northeastern North America, Maritime Provinces, Canadian Higher Education

John.Reid@smu.ca

Bill Sewell

B.Sc. (Wisconsin - Madison), MA (California - Davis), Ph.D. (U.B.C.)

China, Japan, Imperialism, Urban History

Bill.Sewell@smu.ca

Tim Stretton

B.A. (Adelaide), LL.B. (Adelaide), Ph.D. (Cambridge)

Tudor and Stuart Britain, Social and Legal History, Women's Legal Rights

Tim.Stretton@smu.ca

Xiaoping Sun

B.A. (Liaoning & Qiqihaer Normal University), MA, Ph.D. (California, Santa Cruz)

China, Gender, Food History, Environmental History

Xiaoping.Sun@smu.ca

Peter L. Twohig

B.A., MA (Saint Mary's), Ph.D. (Dalhousie)

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Atlantic Canada, History of Health and Medicine

Peter.Twohig@smu.ca

Michael E. Vance

B.A. (Simon Fraser), MA (York, UK), MA (McMaster), Ph.D. (Guelph)

British Emigration, Scotland, Ireland

Michael.Vance@smu.ca

Lyndan Warner

B.A. (McGill), Ph.D. (Cambridge)

Early Modern Europe, History of the Family, Print Culture

Lyndan.Warner@smu.ca