

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

GUIDELINES FOR HONOURS STUDENTS

Philosophy of the Honours Program

The B.A. Honours Program is one that allows more specialization than is possible in the ordinary B.A. It is designed for students who wish a deeper insight and more intensive training in History, and who are able to meet the higher standards set.

However, while the B.A. Honours Program is intended to be more demanding than the

ordinary B.A., it does not emphasize original research or specialization to the same extent that the Master's degree does.

As part of the Honours Program a student must *either* take a two-semester Honours directed studies course *or* write an Honours Essay. In either case there will be an oral examination at the end of the second semester.

Requirements

The Honours Program in History must include the following:

- (a) History 100-level
- (b) a minimum of seven 200-level courses
- (c) a minimum of eight 300 or 400-level courses
- (d) History 400, or any 400-level History course as specified by the Honours Student Advisor
- (e) History 498 and 499 (option of directed studies or essay)

The Bachelor of Arts Honours degree must include at least four 400-level courses.

A student must obtain a grade of at least 75% in HISTORY 498 and HISTORY 499 to be awarded the Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in History

The Honours Program in Urban History must include the following:

- (a) History 100-level
- (b) History 240
- (c) eight 200- or 300-level History courses
- (d) three of History 340, 352, 375, 390BP, 413, 426, 478
- (e) three courses with an urban focus from a Department other than History.
Examples are Anthropology 240, Economics 354, Film 240, Geography 220, 324, 424, Indigenous Studies 305, Sociology 202.
- (f) History 400, or any 400-level History course as specified by the Honours Student Advisor
- (e) History 498 and 499 (option of directed studies or essay)

Some history courses have six credit hours and will fulfill 2 three-credit-hour requirements.

The Bachelor of Arts Honours degree must include at least four 400-level courses.

A student must obtain a grade of at least 75% in HISTORY 498 and HISTORY 499 to be awarded the Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in History

THE HONOURS DIRECTED STUDIES OPTION

The Honours Directed Studies Course will count for 6 credit hours carried over two semesters as History 498/499.

In the Honours directed studies course the student will undertake a sustained and wide-ranging analysis of some aspect of his or her major field under the direction of a member of the Department who acts as advisor. At the beginning of a student's first semester in the Honours Program the advisor will, in consultation with another member of the Department in the student's major field (or related field as the case may be), prepare a bibliography of published and/or unpublished works, the whole to amount to no more than 100 pages of reading per week in each semester. The student will meet with the advisor to discuss this reading at regular intervals (every two weeks will be appropriate in most cases). In the first semester the student will also be expected to write two or three book reviews or a review essay, amounting in either case to no more than 2,000 words maximum. These reviews are intended to sharpen the student's powers of critical judgment. Students will consult with their advisor concerning the format, style, etc. expected in these book reviews. At the end of the first semester of the student's program the advisor will submit a written progress report (based upon the student's written work and these biweekly discussions) to the Head of the Department, and it will be discussed with the student.

The student will continue to read and meet with the advisor during the second semester, and will be free to meet informally with the other member of the Department as well. In the second semester the student will again be expected to write two or three book reviews or a review essay, amounting in either case again to no more than 2,000 words maximum.

At the end of the second semester an oral examination will be held, with the advisor, the other Department member in the student's major or related field and the Head of the Department present. The student will be allowed to choose two questions from a list prepared in advance by the advisor and the other Department member in the student's field, and will be given one half hour to consider them before the examination begins. This examination will test the student's knowledge of both facts and interpretation, and will be based on the reading done over the two semesters in History 498/499. The examination will be of approximately one hour's duration. Two grades will be assigned: one by the advisor based upon the student's work over the two semesters, the other by the examining committee based upon the student's performance in the oral examination. Extensions may be granted only in very special circumstances.

THE HONOURS ESSAY OPTION

The Honours Essay Course will count for 6 credit hours carried over two semesters as History 498/499.

The student should consult with his or her advisor concerning the general organization of the Honours Essay and the standard of excellence required in the final written presentation. These guidelines are meant to assist the student who is uncertain about the procedures to be followed in presenting the Essay for examination. While these guidelines are intended to cover all Honours Essays, it is recognized that in matters of style and footnoting the student will want to consult with the advisor.

The Honours Essay (including footnotes and bibliography) *shall not be more than 45 pages in length*. It shall be submitted on March 1 of the following year for students registering in September. For students registering in January the Essay is due on November 1 of the same year. To avoid a rush at the end, students should plan on having a preliminary draft completed approximately six weeks before the examination.

The student is required to see his or her advisor at least once every two weeks during this period in which the student is enrolled in History 498/499. At the end of the first semester of the student's program the advisor will submit a written progress report (based upon these biweekly discussions) to the Head of the Department, and it will be discussed with the student. While the advisor shall provide the student with assistance in the research for, and organization of, the Honours Essay, the final presentation shall be the sole responsibility of the student.

Within fifteen days after the submission of a single copy of the Honours Essay, an examining committee comprised of a minimum of two and not more than three faculty members—including the Head of the Department of History as Chairman of the Committee—shall examine the writer on his or her essay by means of an oral examination. The examination will be of approximately one hour's duration. Two grades will be assigned: one by the advisor upon the student's work over the two semesters as reflected in the Honours Essay, the other by the examining committee based upon the student's paper and performance in the oral examination. Extensions may be granted only in very special circumstances.