

Handbook: Honours Program in History (Updated September 2011)

1. The Program

1.1 The honours program in history is designed to provide a limited number of qualified students with the opportunity to engage in advanced undergraduate work which will prepare them for graduated studies in history or professional studies such as law. The program leads to the BA (Hon) degree. Students contemplating graduate studies should seriously consider the honours program, as this is the preparation normally required for admission to most graduate programs.

Because the honours program has a number of course and entry requirements beyond those of the major, students thinking about entering the program should consult with the chair of the history department or the honours coordinator as soon as possible in their university studies.

The deadline for applications to the program is normally mid-November for students who wish to be enrolled in September of the following year. So, for example, you would apply to the honours program before mid-November 2005 if you were interested in beginning the program in September 2006. Applications consist of a short letter to the honours coordinator with the following information:

- a short statement that you wish to apply to the program
- the name of the professor who has agreed in principle to supervise your honours thesis and the historical subject you will be studying
- a completed **honours checklist** (see the back of this handbook)

2. Admission Requirements

2.1 The program is open to qualified history majors. Normally, students will be enrolled in their fourth or fifth semester when accepted into the program. Qualified students may also choose to apply to the program after completing the requirements of the major.

2.2 The applicant must have and maintain an overall grade average of 70% in all previous University courses. The department expects a minimum average of 75% in previous history courses.

2.3 Spaces are limited and meeting the minimum entry requirements does not guarantee admission. Decisions on admission are made by the department as a committee of the whole. Admission decisions will be made on the basis of demonstrated and potential ability to carry out independent research and sustained historical analysis.

2.4 Graduates of the University of PEI with history majors may apply for admission to the program up to five years after graduation. They have five years to complete their honours studies. UPEI graduates completing the program will be granted an Honours Conversion Certificate. Qualified graduates of other universities may apply to enrol in honours courses and will receive normal credit and UPEI transcripts.

2.5 Application for admission to the honours program should be made in a letter to the departmental honours coordinator. Applications are normally submitted during the fourth or fifth semester.

3. Program Requirements

3.1 Instead of the 120 semester hours required for a degree with a major, students must complete 126 semester hours of course work.

3.2 Students must complete 48 semester hours in history. Six semester hours of work at the 200-400 level are required in four of the following areas of study: Greek and Roman, Europe, Britain, the Americas, Canada, and Global.

3.3 In addition to the courses required for the major, students are required to complete history 497 and 498.

3.4 Students must maintain an overall average of 70% in their university courses, and a minimum average of 75% in their history courses to remain in the program.

3.5 Students will prepare and defend in an oral examination a major research essay under the supervision of an honours advisor from the History Department.

3.6 Students leaving the program because of grade averages falling below the required standard may apply for re-admission after one year and take courses to make up the deficiency.

3.7 Students intending to enter graduate programs should be aware that many MA and PhD programs require a reading knowledge of a second language. As a result, undergraduate courses in a second language are a useful preparation for graduate work in history.

4. Required Courses

History 497

Honours Tutorial in Historiography

History 497 is an intensive reading and tutorial course in selected fields offered by the Department. Students should consult with their honours supervisor in planning this course. The course normally centres on the historiography of the area in which the student's graduating essay is prepared.

Tutorial: Three hours per week

Students will propose, research and write a major research essay under the supervision of an honours advisor from the Department. The essay will be the subject of a final oral examination. The oral examination committee consists of the honours supervisor, one additional member from the Department of History, and a faculty member from another Department of the University.

Tutorial: Three semester hours of credit

5. Department Honours Regulations

5.1 Students must take 497/498 in sequence, preferably in consecutive semesters. The two summer sessions are regarded as one semester for this purpose.

5.2 The honours advisor responsible for the supervision of the graduating essay will be chosen by the student, with the concurrence of the Department. The additional history department member of the student's committee and the external reader will be chosen by the mutual agreement of the student and the honours supervisor. Should the need arise to replace a member of the student's committee, the above procedure will be followed.

5.3 The graduating essay will be at least 12,000 words in length. It must be typed on good quality paper, using letter-quality print, and free of grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. The text must be double spaced, not exceed 25 lines of print per page, and have margins of at least 1". Please refer to the Chicago Manual of Style for further guidance. Revisions or corrections may be required after the final oral examination. It is the student's responsibility to produce a corrected copy for submission to the Robertson Library for binding.

5.4 No later than two weeks before the final oral examination, the student will ensure that four photocopies of the essay are given to the honours supervisor. The supervisor will distribute these to the other two members of the committee and place one copy in the Departmental office for members of the department.

5.5 The oral examination will be held during the normal examination period at a time and place agreeable to the student and the faculty members of the honours committee. Normally it should last about one hour, and provide the student an opportunity to outline the conclusions of the graduating essay to those present and to answer questions. The two departmental members and the external reader will grade the essay in camera following the oral examination, taking into consideration both the essay and the student's performance in the examination. The essay and the oral examination will be assigned a single numerical grade.

6. **Honours Coordinator**

6.1 The Honours Coordinator administers the day to day operations of the program in consultation with the Chair. The Coordinator is named by the Department for a three year term, renewable once.

6.2 The Coordinator advises students on all matters relating to the honours program and keeps student records as necessary.

[Sample Title Page for Honours Essay]

TITLE IN BLOCK LETTERS

by
Full Name of Student

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the
Honours Program in History, University of Prince Edward Island

Date.

2011/2012 History Faculty

Susan Brown	sebrown@upei.ca	Modern Britain (18th and 19th centuries); Gender; Social and Cultural History; Theatre Chair
Lisa Chilton	lichilton@upei.ca	British Imperialism and Colonization; Canadian Immigration; Gender History (Canada and Britain)
Ian Dowbiggin	idowbiggin@upei.ca	Modern European Intellectual; History of Science and Medicine Honours Co-ordinator Sabbatical January - July 2012
Richard Kurial	rkurial@upei.ca	United States: American Foreign Policy On Leave until January 2013
Edward MacDonald	gemaconnald@upei.ca	PEI Political and Social History; Canadian Political
James Moran	jmoran@upei.ca	History of Health and Medicine; History of the State; Canadian Social History; Mental Health History
Sharon Myers	shmyers@upei.ca	Social and Cultural History in Canada and the Maritimes in the 19th and 20th centuries, including the history of women, children and the family; labour and the working class; social reform, political culture and the state
Richard Raiswell	rraiswell@upei.ca	Early Modern Europe; Medieval Europe; Europe and the Wider World; European Intellectual History to 1700; Witchcraft and Demonology; Historiography

History Honours Checklist

The following checklist is intended to assist students in determining which courses they need in order to meet the requirements for the Honours degree in History. It is intended as a supplement to the Registrar's Degree audit. When completed, please pass this checklist in with your letter of application. You may find it helpful to review this checklist with a potential supervisor or the Honours Co-ordinator.

Required Grade Average (please calculate)

Need overall average of 70% in all previous University courses: _____

Need minimum average of 75% in previous History courses: _____

48 semester hours of History credits (this includes HIST 497 & 498)

(indicate # of credit hours for each)

completed: _____

currently enrolled in: _____

remaining required: _____

126 semester hours total of University credits (including History credits)

of remaining credit hours required: _____

Please note: The History Department strongly discourages students from taking HIST 497 & 498 as course overloads (e.g., more than 5 courses in one semester). You may need to consider taking summer session courses in order to meet the requirement of 126 credit hours.

Required courses:

	Completed	Enrolled
HIST 101	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIST 102	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIST 201	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIST 202	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIST 211	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIST 312	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

300 level courses (minimum of 12 semester hours/ 4 courses). Includes HIST 312
Please list courses; include course numbers & titles.

Completed:

Enrolled in:

400 level courses (minimum of 12 semester hours; does not include 497 & 498)
Completed:

Enrolled in:

Breadth requirement

Students must complete courses totalling 6 semester hours of credit at the 200-400 levels in 4 of 6 areas of study: Greek & Roman, European, British, American, Canadian & Global.

Please list the courses (Numbers & titles) which you have completed or are enrolled in which would meet these requirements. (Remember, only 4 out of 5 areas are required; you may choose which 4 you want.)

Greek & Roman:

European:

British:

American:

Canadian:

Global:

Remaining credits

Based on the preceding checklist, what courses will you need to take in order to fulfill the requirements in the following areas:

300 level courses:

400 level courses:

Breadth requirement:

Will you need to take summer session courses in order to avoid a course overload in your final Honours year? (List courses if known)

Including HIST 497 & 498, will you have completed *by the end of your Honours program*:

48 semester hrs of History credits?

126 semester hrs of overall course credits?

Have you met with a potential supervisor?

Are there any courses which s/he recommends as background for your topic of research?