

History

Graduate and Undergraduate Programs Review

Year 1 (2022) - FAR Implementation Report (reviewed 2020/21)

Recommendation #1

Strong recommendation that the department prune their course offerings to reflect what they can reasonably offer.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Course offerings have been reviewed and extraneous courses identified for removal.	Department	C		
Action #2 Remove extraneous courses from calendar.	Department	T		

Comments 2022:

List of Courses proposed for removal are:

Undergraduate Courses

- 1F90: Empires and Revolutions
- 1P98: Western European Society & Politics to 1800
- 1P99: Western European Ideas & Worldviews to 1800
- 2P62: Africa to 1800
- 2Q92: The United States, 1870-1930
- 3P21: Race, Class, & Gender
- 3P52: African American Experience

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

- 3P81: History of Technology
- 3P99: The Challenge to Social Order in 18thC England
- 3Q93: Crusades
- 4P35: Witchcraft Episodes in Britain & America, 1500-1700
- 4P41: The Holocaust
- 4P49: Science and Culture in the Nineteenth Century

Graduate Courses

- 5V33: Chinese Communist Revolution
- 5V40: Women & Work

Recommendation #2

That the department investigate the possibility of providing more on-line offerings especially in the spring and summer semester.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee recognizes that the Department regularly offers online courses in spring and summer and expects that it is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to offer “more”.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Explore possibilities for expanding online offerings, including spring and summer semesters.	Department	0		

Comments 2022:

Up to 2020 we had a single online course. The shift to online teaching during the COVID pandemic provided the opportunity to experiment with online format. We can report that at least nine of our courses will be offered online next year.

Recommendation #3

That the department consider ways of providing more flexibility for their MA students and reconsider the thesis by “Invitation” option.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee recognizes that the program already offers a fair degree of flexibility through the offering of either an MRP or thesis, based on student research interest and direction. ARC encourages the Department to clarify how the “by invitation” thesis option works and find ways to communicate this to students.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department
 Responsible for resources: Department
 Responsible for implementation: Department
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Consider providing increased flexibility to MA students.	Department	D		

Comments 2022:

We will begin this consideration next year.

We do inform and encourage our students to explore the “thesis” stream to prepare them for future doctoral programmes. The pushback has always been that Brock offers not enough financial support to help offset the cost of research. Nonetheless, we demand every MA student complete a Major Research Paper, which though not a thesis has many of its ingredients. Students had to go to the archives sometimes, outside of Canada, depending on the topic, and produce an original essay.

On providing more flexibility, we do not have enough MA students to offer more courses, or we might end up with only 2 or 3 students in a class. But we give students the option of Directed Reading Classes where a student works with a Professor on an agreed subject/topic for a semester and it counts as a full course. Some students have taken this route to meet their unique needs.

Recommendation #4

That the department make more detailed course descriptions and course requirements available at course selection.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee recognizes that course descriptions are curtailed by UPC rules on space in the calendar. The Committee expects that the Department is best-positioned to investigate other methods of publicizing course descriptions and requirements.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #5

That department members use their research funds in a targeted way to attract graduate students.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee agrees that this is current practice while recognizing that research funds are the purview of individual members of the Department.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #6

That department and administration rethink the delivery of the co-op program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022/23

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department will discuss and consider the delivery of the Co-op programme.	Department	T		

Comments 2022:

We are in discussions with Brock Co-op Career and Experiential (CCEE) office on how to make the programme more effective. COVID restrictions and lack of placement positions for students have been a big challenge in the last two years. We will revisit this in the 2022/23 academic year.

Recommendation #7

That the department update some of their course titles to reflect current historical trends and language.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it is already current practice.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #8

That the department undertake an anonymous student survey to learn more about student concerns.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department is discussing and has begun planning for a student survey or town hall to learn more about student concerns.	Department	T		

Comments 2022:

The Department is committed to learning more about the concerns and needs of our students and as indicated in the review document we believe that an anonymous student survey or a town hall-style meeting would be an excellent method to do this. Upon reflection, and after consultation with the English Department, the Department believes that a town hall style discussion/meeting would be an ideal format for such a forum, and could provide an opportunity to gather History students in the wake of the pandemic induced disruptions and begin to rebuild a sense of community. Therefore, the Department is committed to holding an in-person town hall style meeting, but it also recognizes that this would be well-nigh impossible to facilitate before the end of the current academic year when students and faculty disperse for the summer. The Department commits to organizing such a meeting at the earliest possible convenience, possibly in the Fall of 2022 or Winter of 2023.

Recommendation #9

That the department organize a retreat.	
ARC Disposition of the Recommendation	
ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation	
Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department is striking a committee to organize the retreat as part of our committee assignments for 2022-23.	Department	C		
Action #2 The Department is actively planning an in-person retreat for Spring 2023.	Department	T		

Comments 2022:

The Department is committed to holding an in-person retreat. However, despite the loosening of COVID restrictions at the time of writing, it is now too late in the academic year to organize an in -person retreat for the spring of 2022 (April or May being the desired time of year for a retreat before members of the Department disperse for the summer). The Department is committed to organizing an in-person retreat at the earliest convenience, ideally in the Spring of 2023. As a first step in this process, an ad-hoc retreat committee has been created to organize the retreat in the upcoming academic year (2022-23).