

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Department of
History
Graduate
Handbook

Department of History

Master of Arts (M.A.) Program

The Saint Mary's History Department has particular strengths in:

- Public, Community & Applied History
- Migration & Settlement History
- History of Culture & Memory

Our one-year M.A. Program is small and collegial, catering to both full and part-time students. Enrolments are limited, allowing faculty members to devote time and energy to fostering the research skills of each M.A. student. Generous fellowships are available, and opportunities also exist for working as Teaching Assistants. The core graduate seminar surveys the theories and methods of the discipline of History. Students can choose among a range of seminar courses to further broaden their knowledge. In special circumstances, some students may be offered the opportunity to work one on one with an individual faculty member in directed studies.

Requirements for the M.A. in History

Prerequisites

- Applicants to our M.A. program should have an Honours Degree or its equivalent. Students without an Honours BA should consult the Coordinator to establish whether they have the equivalent to this degree. We look for students who have had at least some experience conducting research with primary sources and have acquired a solid base in historiography.
- For those who do not have an honours degree or its equivalent, the University offers a Certificate of Honours Equivalency which allows students to complete SMU's honours History degree requirements in one year making them eligible to apply to our MA program the following year. (See details below).
- A minimum GPA of 3.00, preferably higher. If students do not meet this requirement, the University offers the opportunity to up-grade. Up-grading students must register through the Admissions Office and meet a credit hours limit set by the Faculty of Arts (no more than 30 credit hours). The choice of courses should be done in consultation with the Department's Honours Coordinator to ensure the equivalent to a SMU Honours degree.
- To apply, go to: <https://smu.ca/academics/apply-to-grad-studies.html>

Certificate of Honours Equivalency

This certificate is designed for students with a History Major BA who wish to obtain the equivalent to an Honours degree. Students are required to complete the same requirements as Saint Mary's Honours History students.

Prerequisites to be admitted to the Certificate Program:

- Must have a Major BA in History (42 credit hours in History)
- A minimum 3.00 GPA

To obtain the Honours Equivalency Certificate:

- Total credit hours required of History Honours students is at least 24 credit hours in History and an additional 6 credit hours that may be taken either in History or in a cognate area. The required 24 credits in History must include the following in addition to the credit hours already taken for a Major:
 - An additional six (6.0) credit hours in History courses at the 2000 or 3000 level
 - An additional nine (9.0) credit hours in History courses at the 4000 level
 - History 4500 (6.0 credit hours): the Honours Seminar, which includes attendance at a weekly seminar as well as researching and writing a 50-60 page thesis under the direction of a supervisor.
- Graduate with a GPA of 3.3.

****We recommend that the applicant consult with the Coordinator for course selection to ensure that the proper requirements are met.*

M.A. Application Process

Go to: http_s://smu.ca/academics/graduate-application-forms-and-requirements.html#MA_History

Students apply to the History MA program by sending their application to the University's Faculty of Graduate Studies by **February 1** in order to qualify for funding. For those **not** requesting funding, the final deadline for applications is **May 15**.

The application should include:

- A completed application form: http_s://smu.ca/webfiles/SF_History_web.pdf
- A current CV
- Statement of Research Interests: in a covering letter include a summary of the topic you would like to research for the MA thesis. This may be in the form of a very general description of what area/s students wish to explore. The reason we ask for this

information is to ensure that we can match students with a supervisor in their general



6. The University's general requirements for the Master of Arts degree apply to the graduate students in the Department of History. Please see the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for these regulations.

Compulsory Courses and Thesis

HIST 6500.0: The Seminar in Advanced Historiography

Each student in the MA program, whether full-time or part-time, enrolls in the full year

Late completion

Full time students have one year to complete the course requirement for the M.A. Part time students have two years. Students who complete the required numbers of courses by the



Role and Responsibilities of the Supervisor

The supervisor should have some background in the time period, region or historical theme that the student hopes to research. The supervisor should meet with the student on a regular basis to direct and help in the research process. A supervisor should also provide written and oral feedback on the thesis proposal, reports of research progress, and drafts of the thesis.

Role of Graduate Coordinator

The Graduate Coordinator is the first point of contact for the MA in History at Saint Mary's. They may already have advised the student during the application process and will continue

Evaluation and Grading Scheme

Courses

A+ = 4.30 = Excellent

A = 4.00 = Excellent

A- = 3.67 = Very Good

B+ = 3.33 = Good

B = 3.00 = Satisfactory

B- = 2.67 = Below graduate standard

C = 2.00 = Marginal Pass

F = 0.00 = Failure

Theses

P = Pass (with or without corrections) F = Fail

Courses and Theses

IP = In Progress

(For graduate theses and dissertations this grade can remain in effect until the expiration of the timeline for the completion of the individual student's entire graduate program. The IP grade is not calculated in quality point averages. Thereafter, it becomes an F ("failure") that is calculated in a student's quality point averages. For all other graduate courses, the IP grade is valid only for a maximum of twelve months beyond the last day of classes inst d56(se)-1yr9(.4(t)-8.2(

History Department Members & Areas of Expertise

Administrative Assistant

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Faculty

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