



THE PROJECT OPTIONS

Students have three options in pursuing an Honours degree in the department. They can write a traditional thesis, an archival thesis, or an article-based thesis. Note: When picking a topic, it is important that the student locate sufficient suitable primary sources with which to work, and that these be readily available without necessitating expensive or extended travel. It is also important for students to consult with faculty on the suitability of their proposed topic and the availability of a suitable Supervisor and Second Reader. It may not be possible for the department to accommodate all topics.

The Traditional Thesis

The traditional thesis is an essay (no longer than 75 pages double-spaced plus scholarly apparatus) which provides the student with the opportunity to contribute to historical knowledge through original research.

The thesis will usually be divided into three chapters and a brief conclusion. The first chapter of the thesis formally introduces the topic and describes its importance. It explores the historiography of the subject and places the research in the context of what other historians have discovered. Subsequent chapters contribute to historical knowledge and involve analysis and interpretation of the primary sources. A short conclusion pulls the thesis together.

The Archival Thesis

Students may write an archival thesis, utilizing the university archives, under the supervision of a faculty member and a University Archivist, who will also function as Second Reader.

First, students will work closely with a University Archivist, organizing a selected collection of primary documents, reading related secondary literature, creating a finding aid, and writing a short archival description. Then, students will write an extended research essay (about 10,000 words) under the supervision of department faculty, using primary material from the collection and their secondary reading from the first term. The bound thesis will include a preface, the essay, and finding aid and archival description.

The Article-Length Thesis

The article-length thesis has three components: a preface, an historiographical paper, and a research article, with appropriate scholarly apparatus throughout.

Students will begin by researching and writing an historiographical paper (20 pages minimum) on a chosen topic. Then, students will write an article-length paper (about 10,000 words), based on primary sources and following from the historiographical paper. It will be structured as would be expected for publication. For final submission, the students will write a preface (one or two pages), introducing the topic and showing how the sections work together.

THE GRADE

The grade will be assigned by mutual agreement of both readers. In the case of disagreement, the Supervisor will be responsible for assigning the grade in consultation with the Head. If the Head is the Supervisor or Second Reader, the Honours Coordinator will step in and help determine the grade with the Supervisor.

THE DEADLINES

In winter term prior to the year of writing	Prospective Honours students should submit a short thesis proposal to the department Honours Coordinator outlining the topic, stating questions to be addressed, and identifying the primary sources to be used. Once the proposals are received, they will be circulated to all faculty members and then reviewed at a faculty meeting. Proposals will be matched up with faculty members willing to supervise them or act as second readers. Prospective honours students will be notified of these results in writing by the Honours Coordinator.
During the summer	Students are strongly advised to work on their thesis over the summer, given the challenging timetable for submitting drafts.
By the add/drop date in September	Thesis Supervisor, Second Reader and the student should meet to review progress made over the summer and to set dates for submission of chapters to each reader. At this meeting, the student will provide both readers with a plan, including an updated thesis proposal (which might serve as the basis of the thesis Introduction), a provisional thesis statement, and bibliography of primary and secondary sources. This plan should be subjected to a serious review with an eye to the suitability of the topic and the student's ability to complete it successfully. Students who are unable to settle on a solid topic are to drop HIST4996 and enrol in other courses so as to stay on track for graduating with the Major instead.
Mid to Late November	Progress Review: This review will involve the Supervisor, Second Reader, and a third faculty member, normally the Head or the Honours Coordinator. Work to be submitted for review includes:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Thesis: revised draft of one chapter, and an updated plan, reading list, and timeline • Archival Thesis: evidence of progress in the archival work and an updated plan, including the essay topics, a reading list, and timeline • Article-length Thesis: a revised draft of the historiography paper and an updated plan, reading list, and timeline <p>If, in the estimation of the review panel, the student has not made satisfactory progress, the student will withdraw from the honours program. Likewise, students may opt to end their projects at this time. In these cases, students will be given the option of submitting a 25-35 page paper on their topic for 3hrs credit as HIST 2693 or HIST 3693 (Special Topics).</p>
December	Mid-term grade to be submitted by Supervisor in consultation with Second Reader.
Before the W/F date for 6h courses	The Honours Coordinator will check to make sure that things are continuing to progress and will take action as appropriate.
By two weeks before the Registrar's thesis submission deadline	<p>Entire thesis should have been reviewed by both readers, and a revised draft submitted to the Head, complete with presentation pages, figures, appendices etc. The thesis will be checked by the Head and/or a specially constituted committee to assist in the task of making sure it conforms to university guidelines. Students will be required to make any necessary revisions.</p> <p>If a thesis is not appropriate for submission to the University Honours Committee, 6hrs of credit for Special Topics (Hist2693 and Hist3693) can be given to complete the Major. In rare cases, a student may be given an 'S' (incomplete) and a chance to continue to work on the thesis. Note: this option will delay graduation. See the Regulations for Honours Theses on the Research Office website for more information.</p>
By 12:00 noon of the Registrar's thesis submission deadline	All University Honours committee forms must be completed and signed, and a final version of the full thesis must be submitted to the University Honours Committee by the student. This deadline is set by Senate, and it is the student's responsibility to adhere to it. Students unable to make this deadline must contact their Supervisor, the Head, and Honours Coordinator ASAP.
April	Oral Defence: At a convenient time, students will present a 20-30 minute summary of their thesis to the Department and fellow students, and be prepared to answer questions from the audience. This will be chaired by the Head or Honours Coordinator. Supervisors will submit their grades to the Head at this time.

RESOURCES

Honours Coordinator

The History Honours coordinator is available to students and faculty for advice and support related to the Honours program and thesis process.

Research Office

Honours theses fall under the auspices of the Research Office. Their website includes important information on formatting and submission requirements. See: <https://www2.acadiau.ca/research/undergraduate.html>.

The Vaughan Memorial Library

The Library provides books and journal articles that can improve your assignments, projects and papers. This term, the library has had to make changes and these are described under various headers on the library's [home page](#) and for a variety of other services check of their [About Us page](#). You can view resources specifically selected for History courses at <https://libguides.acadiau.ca/history> . This is also a link to this guide on our Acorn (right-hand side, near the top).

Accessibility Learning Services: If you are a student with documentation for accommodations who anticipates needing supports or accommodations, please contact Accessible Learning Services at disability.access@acadiau.ca. Accessible Learning Services is located in Rhodes Hall, rooms 111-115. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

The Writing Centre offers free help to students wanting to improve their writing skills. You can sign up online today:

- To book a one-to-one appointment with a trained writing tutor, click here: writingcentre.acadiau.ca/writing-tutorials.html
- To see which helpful presentations and workshops you'll want to attend this year, click here: writingcentre.acadiau.ca/workshops-and-presentations.html

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity demands responsible use of the work of other scholars. It is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek in advance the advice of the instructor involved. The following are considered infractions of academic integrity and may lead to sanction:

- a. Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise.
- b. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- c. Self-plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.

- d. A student who knowingly helps another to commit an act of academic dishonesty is equally guilty.

Penalties are levied in relation to the degree of the relevant infraction. They range from requiring the student to re-do the piece of work, through failure on that piece of work, to failure in the course, and to dismissal from the university.

Procedures Concerning Infractions of Academic Integrity (Academic)

- a. An Instructor who suspects a violation of academic integrity shall first attempt to determine if a potential violation exists. This determination shall involve a preliminary meeting between the Instructor and student. If a determination is made by the Instructor that the incident does not constitute a violation, no further action is initiated.
- b. Where a potential violation is indicated, a meeting shall be convened normally within five working days with the student, Instructor and Unit Head. This meeting is intended to present information to determine if an infraction has occurred. Both student and instructor may bring a witness/advocate. That advocate for the student may be an ASU representative. Each party will be allowed to submit written statements and speak to the allegation.
- c. No later than five working days after the meeting the Unit Head shall offer her/his verdict on the case. Where a Unit Head determines that the evidence fails to support the claim of a violation, the case concludes with no further action.
- d. Where it is determined that an infraction has occurred, the Head shall contact the Registrar's Office to determine if the student has former infractions in the Registry of Previous Infractions.
- e. Where the Registry of Previous Infractions contains no more than one previous case, the Head shall determine a suitable penalty for the infraction. It is noted that in making this determination, the Head shall be guided by the twin interests of education and sanction. In cases where there are 2 or more previous infractions indicated, the Head shall send the relevant documentary evidence to the relevant Dean for the determination of the appropriate sanction.
- f. The student has the right of appeal. Where the determination of sanction has been made at the level of the Unit Head, the appeal is made to the relevant Dean with the Unit Head and Student present for the meeting. Where the sanction was determined at the Dean level, the appeal is to the Vice-President Academic with the Dean and student present for the meeting. The Unit Head (or Dean) and student may each have a witness/advocate (ASU representative is permitted for the student). The determination by the appeal body is final.
- g. Notwithstanding (f), in the case of a penalty of expulsion from the University a student has the right to appeal the decision of the Vice-President Academic to the Senate Academic Discipline Appeals Committee. Students have the right to legal counsel when appearing before this committee.
- h. In all cases, violations are to be recorded in the Registrar's Registry of Previous Infractions.
- i. In the event that a Unit Head is the instructor, a designated Head will discharge the relevant duties. In the case where the instructor is a Dean, the VPA will designate a substitute Dean for the prescribed role.