



**SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY**

# Department of History Undergraduate Handbook

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# History at Saint Mary's

History is the collective memory of human societies, and the historian's task is to make sense of the past. This involves more than just the accumulation of names, dates and information. It requires understanding how people have been shaped by their pasts, the logic of their desires, beliefs and actions, and how they in turn have influenced their societies and broader patterns of change. In short, history is not about looking for easy answers, it is about posing difficult questions.

The key focus of the History Department at SMU is on helping students develop core skills that have value far beyond a university degree. These include the ability to read widely, to think critically and to write clearly. The Department deliberately keeps class sizes small, with most 1000 level courses capped at around 60 students, most 2000 & 3000 level courses at 30, and 4000 level seminars at just 15. This not only makes it possible for professors to get to know their students, it allows most courses to have a focus on academic writing as well as thinking.

The Department prides itself on offering students a wide variety of course topics and learning experiences. The expertise of the 12 full-time faculty members extends across Canada, the U.S.A., Asia, Europe, Britain and Latin America, and stretches from pre-modern Europe and Asia to the present day. The history program is designed for a broad audience, from history majors and honours students to students of other disciplines seeking interesting subjects to fill out their degrees. Courses at the **1000** level introduce the nature of historical analysis and thinking. Courses at the **2000** level tend to focus on more specific geographical areas, while those at the **3000** level are generally thematic. An array of highly specialized courses at the **4000** level concentrates on group discussion and the sharing of insights through seminar presentations.

History is an exciting discipline. It allows students to explore past worlds and peoples by learning about the unfamiliar or deepening existing knowledge of the familiar. History is also a rigorous discipline. It involves the mastery of large and sometimes complex bodies of knowledge, and the questioning of widely held assumptions. In an electronic age, the ability to carry out research, to evaluate evidence, to think creatively and to argue effectively is more essential than ever. History is not always easy, but it is always rewarding, and graduates from the Saint Mary's History Department have moved on to successful careers in a number of different professions, as journalists, teachers, archivists, museum administrators, public servants, web designers, business leaders and university professors.

# Requirements

## History Major:

To obtain a **Major** in History, students must complete at least **forty-two credit hours (42.0)** in history, as follows:

1. six (6.0) but no more than twelve (12.0) credit hours at the 1000 level;
2. **HIST 3000.1(.2)** The Discipline of History;
3. at least nine (9.0) credit hours at the 2000 level;
4. at least nine (9.0) other credit hours at the 3000 level (not including HIST 3000);
5. at least six (6.0) credit hours at the 4000 level.

**\*Please Note:** A minimum program quality point average of **2.00** is required (see the Arts Degree requirements in the *University Calendar*).

## History Minor:

To obtain a **Minor** in History, students must complete **twenty-four (24.0)** credit hours, including **twelve (12.0)** or more at the **2000 level or above**.

**\*Please Note:** A minimum program quality point average of **2.00** is required (see the regulations for minors in the *University Calendar*).

## Double Concentration (B.A. General 90 Credit Hours):

To obtain a B.A. with History as part of a **Double Concentration** students must complete **twenty-four (24.0)** credit hours in History, including at least **six (6)** credit hours at the 2000 level, and at least **twelve (12).0** credit hours at the 3000 and 4000 level

**\*Please Note:** A minimum program quality point average of **2.00** is required (see the double concentration requirements in the *University Calendar*).



## **History Honours:**

To obtain an **Honours** degree in History, students must:

1. Satisfy the **requirements** of the **Major program**;
2. an additional **three (3.0)** credit hours at 2000 level or higher;
3. an additional **nine (9.0)** credit hours at 4000 level; and
4. Complete History 4500 (**6.0 credit hours**): the **Honours Seminar**, which includes attendance at a weekly seminar as well as researching and writing an Honours Thesis under the direction of a supervisor. (see page 10 for details)

Students who have taken more history courses than those required to graduate with a History Major can have them count towards their Honours degree if they meet that degree's requirements.

**\*Please Note:** In order to qualify for the Honours program, students must obtain and maintain a cumulative quality point average of **3.00** (see the general regulations governing Honours Degrees in the *University Calendar*). While the University's minimum G.P.A. to graduate with an Honours degree is 3.0, the History Department has set its minimum GPA at 3.3. The university offers students the possibility of upgrading to reach that level.

## **University Grading Scheme:**

<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/academic-regulations/regulations/rating-grades-grade-points/>

## **General Course Description**

- History courses numbered at the 1000 level are survey courses open to students with no university credits in the discipline.
- While there are no specific prerequisites needed to enroll in 2000 or 3000 level courses, students would ideally have six (6.0) credit hours in 1000 level history courses, or thirty (30.0) credit hours in university courses, before attempting them. 2000 and 3000-level courses are usually structured to include both lectures and seminars.
- History courses at the 4000 level are normally seminar courses designed for advanced work by history majors and honors students in Year 2 and above. History courses at the 6000-level are for M.A. students.
- With regard to renumbered or restructured courses, students are advised that they are not eligible to take a course for credit if they already have a credit for a comparable course, even if that course was taken at a different level.

# Scholarships & Awards:

The Department of History annually awards several prizes to undergraduate students:

- Best Honours Thesis
- Highest Academic Standing
- Dr. Richard Twomey Prize: for best student performance in HIST 3000
- Cameron History Scholarship (\$8000): This scholarship is available to one (1) and up to two (2) returning, full-time undergraduate students enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts, pursuing an honours in History. Preference is given to those who have demonstrated keen interest in the study of British and/or European History. If no students meet the criteria noted above, this scholarship may be awarded to student(s) majoring in History.

## Considering the Honours Program?

The Honours Program is rigorous and challenging and requires a significant commitment of time and energy. However, for students who love history and want to expand their horizons beyond the normal requirements of the History Major, it can provide an exciting opportunity to conduct original research and to write an extended 60-page thesis. An Honours degree is a prerequisite for most M.A. and PhD programs, and a prized qualification for a number of other careers.

Honours students work closely with a supervisor, choosing a suitable topic, finding source materials, and then writing their thesis. They also take part in the Honours Seminar, examining the theory, methods and practice of history at an advanced level alongside Master's Students. If your G.P.A. is above 3.0 (and preferably above 3.3) and you have an interest in learning more about the Honours program, contact the Honours Coordinator. (To apply to the Honours program students normally need to have completed at least 24.0 credit hours of History courses).

## Considering the Masters Program?

The History Departments offers a one-year M.A degree that combines course work with the researching and writing of a thesis. Our program accepts only a few full or part-time students each year and encourages them to become active in the research culture of the Department. Successful applicants are usually awarded University fellowships and grant support. In addition, members of the Department may offer students employment as teaching or research assistants. Graduates of the M.A. program have entered PhD programs across Canada and internationally. Others are pursuing careers as journalists, archivists, teachers, museum curators and researchers.

# Course Offerings:

Please check the Department of History website at:

<https://www.smu.ca/history/history-programs-current-courses.html> for the course listing and descriptions.

## **General Course Description**

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- With regard to renumbered or restructured courses, students are advised that they are not eligible to take a course for credit if they already have a credit for a comparable course, even if that course was taken at a different level.

## Writing Centre

Burke Building, Room 115, (902) 420-6202

Website: [studio.smu.ca/wc-home](https://studio.smu.ca/wc-home)

Email: [studio@smu.ca](mailto:studio@smu.ca)

Online booking: <https://studio.smu.ca/wc-student-tutoring>

The Department's Style Guide, available on the Department of History's website, provides advice about footnoting and formatting essays. A Sample Essay is available on the website too. <https://www.smu.ca/history/history-style-manual.html>.

If you require further assistance, contact the Writing Centre, which exists to enhance student writing skills. The centre offers free, one-on-one tutoring sessions to undergraduate and graduate students, designed on a peer-based format, as well as specific workshops throughout the semester. The centre's writing assistants take an approach to tutoring that actively involves the student in the session. Rather than proofreading or editing, the writing assistants work with students on assignments from the beginning, in order to help students improve their writing skills.



The centre recommends that students contact them as soon as assignments are given, however students at any stage of the writing process can get help in areas such as selecting a topic, formulating a thesis statement, or revising a completed assignment. Appointments are scheduled for one hour.

The centre has a number of other useful resources, such as:

- An online tutorial Certified Writing Tips - A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing an Essay that leads your through the essay writing process <https://studio.smu.ca/ac-resources/essay-writing>
- Information designed to help you develop as an academic writer <https://studio.smu.ca/ac-resources>

WHO (Writing Help Online) a free, online study guide program designed to help improve your academic writing skills. This self-directed program can be used at your own pace <https://studio.smu.ca/who>

## Advice & Counselling

### **Fred Smithers Centre, Access, and Support for Students with Disabilities**

3rd Floor Student Centre

(902) 420-5452 TTY: (902) 425-1257

[www.smu.ca/campus-life/fred-smithers-centre.html](http://www.smu.ca/campus-life/fred-smithers-centre.html)

The Fred Smithers Centre offers individualized support services including: individual academic and employment counselling, ASL / English Interpreting, academic support, note taking (volunteer program), alternative exam accommodations and invigilation, alternate format preparation, adaptive technology and training, Ferguson Tape Library (texts on tape or electronic format), advocacy and self-advocacy training.

### **Indigenous Student Advisor**

Indigenous Student Lounge, Burke 113

902-491-6578

<https://www.smu.ca/indigenous-community/student-advisor.html>

The Indigenous Student Advisor provides information, support, education and referrals to prospective, new and returning Aboriginal students studying at Saint Mary's University.

## **African Descendent/Black Student Support**

3rd Floor Student Centre, Room 301A

The role of the African Descendent/Black Student Support

<https://www.smu.ca/blackstudent/welcome.html> is to provide education, mediation, advocacy, impartial observation, support and referrals. The office's student advisor <https://www.smu.ca/blackstudent/advisors.html> is also there to help students in dealing with course information, accessing student services, financial aid, and program tutorials.

## **The Counselling Centre**

4th floor Student Centre

Room 406

(902) 420-5615

<https://www.smu.ca/counselling/index.html>  
[counselling@smu.ca](mailto:counselling@smu.ca)

The Counselling Centre staff provide short-term educational planning, personal and career counselling to students experiencing various developmental, emotional and/or psychological issues while studying at Saint Mary's University. Counselling Services provides free confidential professional counselling to all Saint Mary's students.

## **The International Centre**

Room 300, 3rd floor Student Centre (902) 420-5525

[international.centre@smu.ca](mailto:international.centre@smu.ca)  
<https://www.smu.ca/isc/index.html>

The International Centre provides support, assistance and advice to international students at Saint Mary's University. The Centre provides opportunities for cultural and social activities throughout the year, through programming activities and a volunteer group.

# The Patrick Power Library

<https://www.smu.ca/academics/the-patrick-power-library.html>

The Patrick Power Library is the main research centre on the Saint Mary's campus. It is a great place to study, providing a variety of environments suited to the different ways students like to work. At the library you will find:

- Experienced staff eager to help you with your research
- More than 400,000 books and 16,000 academic journals, many available online via the Library's web site
- Online tutorials on how to use the library
- Seating for more than 400 students
- 50 desktop computers & 10 laptops, all connected to laser printers
- Wireless access throughout
- 9 study rooms for working on group projects
- Quiet study space on the 2nd & 3rd floors
- Food & drink are allowed

Individual study space is available for booking <https://www.smu.ca/academics/book-a-study-room.html>

## **The Novanet Catalogue**

The library's catalogue includes books and journals held in Nova Scotia college and university libraries, not just at Saint Mary's.

## **Novanet Express**

Items that Saint Mary's does not hold, but which are listed in the Novanet catalogue, can be delivered to the library, free of charge, by Novanet Express.

## **Interlibrary loan**

The library offers a free interlibrary loan service for books and articles not contained in the Novanet collection.

## **A-Z Databases**

These research databases listed on the library home page contain links to journal indexes, E-journals, full text journal databases, and statistics.

## **Subject Guides**

The library issues guides for finding materials on specific subjects. Each guide lists selected print materials that can be located in the Library. Links to the Novanet Catalogue, relevant research databases, and selected Internet sites are also included. The guides also provide links to other useful resources, such as Style Guides for Citation. The History Style guide for essays can be found at [libguides.smu.ca/history](http://libguides.smu.ca/history)

## **Research Questions**

If you need to talk to a librarian about a research problem, one on one instruction is available. You can:

- Visit the Information Desk staff in person.
- Call (902) 420-5534
- Send e-mail to: [research@smu.ca](mailto:research@smu.ca)



# Faculty Members & Their Expertise

## **Full-time Faculty:**

**Rosana Barbosa**, *Professor*

Latin America, Brazil, Migration and Brazilian-Canadian Relations

[Rosana.Barbosa@smu.ca](mailto:Rosana.Barbosa@smu.ca)

**Blake Brown**, *Professor, Chair*

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Canada, Legal History, Nova Scotia

[Blake.Brown@smu.ca](mailto:Blake.Brown@smu.ca)

**Leslie Digdon**, *Associate Professor*

History of science and technology, medicine, gender and the social history of North America and Europe.

[leslie.digdon@smu.ca](mailto:leslie.digdon@smu.ca)

**Kirrily Freeman**, *Professor*

Modern Europe, France, Social and Cultural History

[Kirrily.Freeman@smu.ca](mailto:Kirrily.Freeman@smu.ca)

**Heather Green**, *Associate Professor*

Environmental, Indigenous, Northern Canada, mining, tourism, health

[Heather.Green@smu.ca](mailto:Heather.Green@smu.ca)

**Karly Kehoe**, *Professor*

Religion, Migration, and Minority Identities in the British Atlantic

[Karly.kehoe@smu.ca](mailto:Karly.kehoe@smu.ca)

**Shira Lurie**, *Associate Professor*

United States, Political History, Cultural History, Historical Memory

[Shira.Lurie@smu.ca](mailto:Shira.Lurie@smu.ca)

**Nicole Neatby**, *Professor, Graduate Coordinator*

Modern Canada, Quebec, Canadian Women, Public History

[Nicole.Neatby@smu.ca](mailto:Nicole.Neatby@smu.ca)

**Bill Sewell**, *Professor*

China, Japan, Imperialism, Urban History

[Bill.Sewell@smu.ca](mailto:Bill.Sewell@smu.ca)

**Tim Stretton**, *Professor*

Tudor and Stuart Britain, Social and Legal History, Women's Legal Rights

[Tim.Stretton@smu.ca](mailto:Tim.Stretton@smu.ca)

**Xiaoping Sun**, *Assistant Professor*

China, Gender

[Xiaoping.Sun@smu.ca](mailto:Xiaoping.Sun@smu.ca)

**Peter L. Twohig**, *Professor*

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Atlantic Canada, History of Health and Medicine

[Peter.Twohig@smu.ca](mailto:Peter.Twohig@smu.ca)

**Michael E. Vance**, *Professor*

Modern Britain, British Migration & Colonization

[Michael.Vance@smu.ca](mailto:Michael.Vance@smu.ca)

**Lyndan Warner**, *Professor*

Early Modern Europe, History of the Family, Print Culture

[Lyndan.Warner@smu.ca](mailto:Lyndan.Warner@smu.ca)

### **Adjunct Professors:**

**David Campbell**

Military/Diplomatic, First World War, British imperial, ancient Egypt

**Jill Campbell-Miller**

Canadian political history, history of development

**Luca Codignola**

Roman Catholic church in the North Atlantic area in the early modern era

**Willeen Keough**

Negotiations of gender and ethnicity; cultural memory

**Mark McGowan**

Religious, social, and communications history of Canada and Ireland

**Scott McLean**

British and European history

**Isaac Saney**

Africa, the Caribbean, Cuba, and Black Canadian history

**Mark Sweeney**

Canadian History, War Crimes, Local & Community History

**Emeritus Professors:****D. Owen Carrigan**

Crime and Punishment in Canada, U.S. Social

**Colin Howell**

History of Sport, Canada, Atlantic Canada Studies

**James Morrison**

Atlantic World, Africa, Ethnicity and Immigration

**John G. Reid**

Colonial Northeastern North America, Maritime Provinces, Canadian Higher Education

**George F. W. Young**

Modern Europe, U.S. in the Twentieth Century, Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Latin America