History
Graduate & Undergraduate Programs Review
Year 2 (2023) - 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	C	

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

Comments 2023:
Course pruning has been completed, approved by the UPC, and reflected in the University course calendar.

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	O		

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.

On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)   2

Comments 2023:
Ten (10) courses were offered online this year and the Department has formalized processes for determining online course offering.

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	T	

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

On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)   3

for a semester and it counts as a full course. Some students have taken this route to meet their unique needs.

Comments 2023:
The MA program was the subject of an agenda item at the History Department retreat held on 28 April 2023. The GPD reported on the current state of the program and enrolments. Given the small size of the program, more flexibility in course offerings is problematic. Discussion included methods of attracting more external applicants.

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	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.

Comments 2023:
The Co-op program was the subject of an agenda item at the April 28 retreat representatives from the CCEE office made a brief presentation on the program, which was followed by discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the program, and ways to attract more students. We are studying Work-Integrated Learning programmes in other schools with a view to better situate our programme in a changing work environment.

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	C	

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.

Comments 2023:
The Department organized a Student Town Hall on Nov 17, 2022, attended by 127 students.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health restrictions significantly impacted "normal" teaching. The objectives of the Town Hall were to learn from students to enhance their experience and retention rates. This means mobilizing feedback to tailor our program design, course delivery, and engagement initiatives specifically to student needs and concerns. By involving our student constituencies in departmental planning, we ensure dynamic, student-facing experiences for everyone who takes a history course at Brock. This

On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)   6

report organizes feedback into four areas: (i) Program and Offerings; (ii) Personnel and Support; (iii) Course Design; and (iv) Community.

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	C	

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).

Comments 2023:
The Department retreat was held on April 28, 2023 to review:
- Course offerings; Program requirements, lists & pathways; first year courses and teaching; Communication of the "real world value" of historical studies/Humanities broadly; MA course offerings and thesis by invitation option; and the delivery of Co-op program.

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

An added motivation for organizing the retreat was the sense of isolation resulting from online teaching and working from home between 2020 and 2022. It provided an opportunity to get everyone together, share class innovations during a roundtable session and ultimately build collegiality. Participants included Faculty, TAs, Administrative Staff and colleagues from CPI and CCEE.

Some policies going forward are listed in responses to Recommendations 3, 6 and 8 above. Other implementations will appear in our 3rd-year report.