

Academic Program Reviews 2004-2008

Final Program Review Summary Sheets –Faculty of Arts

Social Sciences programs

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) programs in: Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology

B.S.W. (Bachelor of Social Work) program

M.A. (Master of Arts) programs in: Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology

M.S.W. (Master of Social Work) program

Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) programs in: Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Social Work

Program Study Group Members:

Marc Angenot (French –PSG Chair)

Nathalie Cooke, Associate Dean of Research & Graduate Studies – FRG Representative for Graduate report

Mary MacKinnon, Associate Dean, Academic Administration and Oversight – FRG Representative for Undergraduate report

Michael Bisson (Anthropology)

Donald Von Eschen (Sociology)

Catherine Lu (Political Science)

Christopher Green (Economics)

Wendy Thomson (School of Social Work)

Hilary Papineau, Undergraduate Student Representative

Magali Girard, Graduate Student Representative

Strengths

- High-quality social science programs at undergraduate and graduate level despite severe resource constraints; large numbers of students especially at undergraduate level
- Impressive faculty roster
- Talented and unusually international student body
- Strong connection to interdisciplinary programs
- Impressive record of grantsmanship

Recommendations

- Offer undergraduate seminar experience on a routine basis
- Improve advising, mentoring and guidance at undergraduate and graduate levels
- Improve graduate funding
- Enhance graduate student space
- Further enhance connection to interdisciplinary programs

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Humanities programs

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) programs in: Art History & Communication Studies, Classics, English, French Language & Literature, History, History & Philosophy of Science, Linguistics, Philosophy

M.A. (Master of Arts) programs in: Art History & Communication Studies, English, French Language & Literature, History, Linguistics, Philosophy

Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) programs in: Art History & Communication Studies, English, French Language & Literature, History, Linguistics, Philosophy

Program Study Group Members:

Bill Watson (Economics – PSG Chair)

Catherine LeGrand (History)

David Davies (Philosophy)

Jon Nissenbaum (Linguistics)

David Crowley (Art History and Communication Studies)

Miranda Hickman (English)

Gillian Lane-Mercier (French Language and Literature)

Cornelius Borck (History and Philosophy of Science)

Enrica Quaroni, Associate Dean, Student Affairs - FRG Representative

Tyler Cohen, Undergraduate Student Representative

Lindsay Holmgren, Graduate Student Representative

Strengths

- Programs are international in many senses (areas of study, origins of faculty and students, opportunities to study abroad)
- Great diversity of approaches to studying each discipline
- Benefits from location in Montreal exploited in several disciplines
- Strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity at all levels

Recommendations

- Emphasize improving writing and other communication skills in undergraduate courses
- Obtain more space for graduate students and research projects
- Obtain more funding for graduate students
- Improve advising, mentoring and guidance at undergraduate and graduate levels

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Languages and Culture programs

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) programs in: East Asian Studies, English & French Language Centre, German Studies, Hispanic Studies, Islamic Studies, Italian Studies, Russian & Slavic Studies

M.A. (Master of Arts) programs in: East Asian Studies, German Studies, Hispanic Studies, Islamic Studies, Italian Studies, Russian & Slavic Studies

Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) programs in: East Asian Studies, German Studies, Hispanic Studies, Islamic Studies, Italian Studies, Russian & Slavic Studies

Program Study Group Members:

Will Straw (Art History & Communications Studies - PSG Chair)

Philip Oxhorn (CDAS – FRG Representative)

Andrew Piper (German Studies)

Amanda Holmes (Hispanic Studies)

Eugenio Bolongaro (Italian Studies)

Laura Beraha (Russian and Slavic Studies)

Robin Yates (East Asian Studies)

Eugene Orenstein (Jewish Studies)

Rula Abisaad (Islamic Studies)

Jean-Yves Richard (English and French Language Centre)

Emma Kadar-Penner, Undergraduate Student Representative

Strengths

- Strong sense of purpose, commitment to the institution, and scholarly and pedagogical accomplishments
- Departments have adapted well to expansion in disciplinary scope and complexity in the context of static or declining resources
- Resourceful and creative faculty
- External reviewer rates programs as good to excellent
- Strong potential to develop new interdisciplinary configurations
- growth in film, media, and cultural studies approaches in recent years presents opportunities for collaboration within and beyond this group of departments
- commitment to language training and study of literature and culture in original language

Recommendations

- Consider strategic reinvestments in languages and culture by Faculty of Arts
- Conduct wide-ranging conversation among departments to discuss joint hires within the Language and Culture group or outside it
- Reduce financial and administrative barriers limiting the development of international exchange programs
- Explore a more nimble and collaborative approach to the creation of minor programs by the Language and Culture units
- Address uncertainties and weaknesses of the current graduate admissions and funding policies
- Explore fully the possibilities of collaborative teaching (of methodological and theoretical courses) at the graduate level
- Improve library holdings in language and culture areas
- Develop undergraduate programs in Islamic Studies

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Interdisciplinary programs

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Major and Minor programs in: African Studies, Canadian Ethnic Studies, Canadian Studies, Humanistic Studies, International Development Studies, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Middle East Studies, North American Studies, Quebec Studies, Social Studies of Medicine, Women's Studies

Program Study Group Members:

Stuart Soroka (Department of Political Science - PSG Chair)
Glyne Piggott (Department of Linguistics - FRG Representative)
Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert (IDS)
Robert Myles (Humanistic Studies)
Michael Smith (Industrial Relations)
Elizabeth Elbourne (African Studies/Women's Studies)
Jose Jouve-Martin (Latin American & Caribbean Studies)
Laila Parsons (Middle East Studies)
Hélène Poulin Mignault (Québec Studies)
Giovani Burgos (Canadian Ethnic Studies)
Antonia Maioni (Canadian Studies)
Thomas Schlich (Social Studies of Medicine)
Thomas Velk (North American Studies)
Yahel Carmon, Undergraduate Student Representative

Strengths

- Broad array of lively and exciting interdisciplinary programs
- Well functioning programs have:
- Highly committed and dedicated faculty
- Highly motivated students
- Access to external funding
- Affiliation with centers, institutes, departments, or scholarly networks that constitute a broader intellectual community into which the degree programs have been inserted

Recommendations

- Enhance intellectual coherence through affiliation with departments, centers, or institutes
- Review listed courses annually to ensure that they remain available and relevant
- Identify core courses from its component disciplines
- List departmental courses earlier
- Include at least one 3-credit integrative foundation course and one 3-credit integrative capstone course
- Improve tracking and assessment of student performance
- Enhance advising

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Religious Studies

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Major programs in: Jewish Studies, Philosophy and Western Religions, Religious Studies

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Minor program in: Catholic Studies

Program Study Group Members:

Kristin Norget (Anthropology – PSG Chair)

Lawrence Kaplan (Jewish Studies)

Uner Turgay (Islamic Studies)

Ian Henderson (Religious Studies)

Filippo Sabetti (Catholic Studies)

Robert Wisnovsky (Philosophy and Western Religions)

Sarah Stroud (Philosophy – FRG Representative)

Corey Shefman, Undergraduate Student Representative

Strengths

- Wide range of pedagogies
- Diversity of perspectives within rich framework
- Good integration of research into learning
- Broad range of courses in study of religion and impact on society, politics and culture
- Excellence of the facilities, including the library

Recommendations

- Review courses and programs that have consistently low enrolments
- Maintain consistent standards across the Faculty
- Develop new mechanisms to consolidate the resources dedicated to all religious studies
- Establish policies to ensure that a maximum number of introductory, large and capstone courses be taught by tenure-stream faculty
- Explore new faculty appointments that bridge units within Arts to enhance interdisciplinarity

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Other Faculties programs (Education, Management, Music)

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Joint Honours program in Economics and Finance

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Major program in Music for Arts

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Minor programs in: Education for Arts students, Education Psychology for Arts students

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Minor program in Management

Program Study Group Members:

John Kurien (Economics – PSG Chair)

Bruce Minorgan (Music)

Kate LeMaistre (Education)

Jan Jorgenson (Management)

Enrica Quaroni, Associate Dean, Student Affairs, FRG Representative

Amber Irwin, Undergraduate Student Representative

Strengths

- High level of interdepartmental and cross-faculty cooperation, relative to other North American universities
- Some programs allow an element of career preparation for Arts students, or at least an understanding of applications of Arts education

Recommendations

- Develop interfaculty minor concentrations and interfaculty programs
- Improve advising

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Faculty of Science programs

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Major and Minor programs in: Computer Science, Geography, Mathematics & Statistics, Psychology

Program Study Group Members:

James McGilvray (Department of Philosophy – PSG Chair)
Stephen Drury (Mathematics)
Bettina Kemme (Computer Science)
Robert Pihl (Psychology)
Colin Chapman (MSE)
Glyne Piggott (Department of Linguistics – FRG Representative)
Geoffrey Hall, Undergraduate Representative

Strengths

- Arts students in Science programs are as integrated within each department as Science students
- Combinations of major and minor concentrations allow Arts students to complete similar sets of courses to students in a Science Major
- Overall quality of programs high in terms of curriculum, teaching staff, and students

Recommendations

- Address very high student-faculty ratio in Psychology
- Improve advising
- Provide better training for teaching assistants
- Encourage more involvement of undergraduates in research activities

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Multi-Track B.A. Program

Program Study Group Members:

Phil Oxhorn (Political Science – PSG Chair)

Grace Fong (East Asian Studies)

Ken Borris (English)

Faith Wallis (History)

Jim McGilvray (Philosophy)

Strengths

- Flexibility of programs allows much student choice of double majors and minors
- All students complete at least two programs, so multi-disciplinarity built into the degree structure
- Multi-track system functioning well

Recommendations

- Review of inter-disciplinary programs needed (ID program as a second major concentration very different from ID program as only major concentration)
- Improve advising / mentoring of students about combinations of major and minor concentrations and elective courses
- Consider more closely the needs of language programs

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Arts Legacy program

Program Review Members

Sue Laver (English & French Language Centre – PSG Chair)
Griet Vankeerberghen (East Asian Studies)
Michael Cowan (German Studies)
Wes Folkerth (English)
Lauren Berkley, Student Representative

Strengths

- Provides excellent first-year experience for a small cohort of UO students
- International, intercultural, “global” focus of the program is justly claimed to be one of its greatest strengths
- Dedicated cadre of professors and lecturers
- Successfully created sense of community among students
- Unique performance component
- Innovative pedagogical perspectives

Recommendations

- Examine ways to incorporate CEGEP graduates into the program
- Reduce program complexity
- Consider reducing number of credits in program
- Ensure adequate administrative support
- Address attrition issues

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