

humanities



MA, PhD
Faculty of Graduate Studies
2009 - 2010

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about the program

The Graduate Program in Humanities is different from other graduate programs, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary, because its main focus is to examine subjects central to the Humanities within a wide diversity of interdisciplinary approaches and within a rich diversity of cultural, including multicultural, contexts. Though the disciplines have over the years become more interdisciplinary, and though graduate programs based on disciplines within the humanities have become more interdisciplinary as a result, the Graduate Program in Humanities is distinctive in its explicit focus on interdisciplinary scholarship in practice and in theory.

MA and PhD in Humanities

Drawing upon the demonstrated expertise of a wide range of faculty members within York University's Division of Humanities and related areas of study at York, the program aims to provide highly qualified students with a unique opportunity of doing specialized academic work in the diverse, cultural expressions of humanities.

Humanities is a program of study whose very basis is the dynamic interaction between text and context in historical and comparative perspective, and whose methodology is explicitly and systematically interdisciplinary. It thus draws upon the interdisciplinary interests and approaches of much contemporary scholarship which is increasingly informed by general theoretical frameworks and issues that cannot be contained within the bounds of conventional disciplines. Within these broad dimensions, the Graduate Program in Humanities addresses critical issues involving western and non-western humanist traditions in contexts that are both historical and contemporary.

The program's mandate is to produce graduates equipped to utilize the rich tools afforded by interdisciplinary scholarship in humanities within a broad range of pursuits not only within a university setting but also outside it.

Learn more about this program at www.yorku.ca/gradhuma

fields of study and research

I. Comparative Perspectives and Cultural Boundaries

This field will stimulate students to think broadly and to formulate questions that require a synthetic, interdisciplinary approach through comparativist and cross-cultural perspectives. Through these perspectives, students will explore cultural documents across a variety of boundaries, including those of time, language, geography, nation, and region. By focussing on boundaries, students will examine the processes and effects by which cultural texts – written, oral, and visual – are displaced from their original context, often with unexpected results.

II. Religion, Values and Culture

This field will examine the complex ways in which texts express the interaction among religion, values, and culture. Of particular interest will be the very nature of religion and the cultural values embodied in diverse religious traditions and expressions. They will be concerned with exploring, especially in modern or comparative contexts, the relationship between the values of traditional religions and those of secular culture.

III. Science, Technology and Culture

This field will explore science and technology as culture. Science and technology have produced their own cultures and traditions – practical and institutional, theoretical and ideological, textual and visual. But these cultures and traditions both emerge from and shape broader social and cultural realities. Such a contextualized understanding provides new and important ways for analyzing the character and historical development of the practices and claims of science and technology.



admission requirements

MA Program

This is a one-year program of study whose purpose is to introduce students to graduate study in Humanities. It will be open to qualified students who do not or may not plan to pursue graduate study in the humanities or in other professional degree programs beyond the MA, and also to qualified students who plan or may plan to continue their studies in the Humanities at the doctoral level or in other professional degree programs. Students require an honours BA in an area relevant to graduate study in Humanities, or its equivalent, with a grade average of at least B+ in the last two years of study.

PhD Program

This is a multi-year program of advanced graduate study whose purpose is to train students to become highly qualified scholars in Humanities. The program culminates in the preparation of a dissertation that makes an original contribution to scholarship in Humanities. The program is open to qualified students who want to obtain advanced scholarly training in the interdisciplinary study of culture in Humanities. Students require and MA degree with a grade average of at least B+ in an area relevant to undertaking

Both the MA and PhD degree programs require:

- Three letters of recommendation;
- Statement of intention, which provides a cogent rationale for undertaking interdisciplinary study of culture in Humanities; and
- Sample of written work relevant to graduate study in Humanities.

Please visit www.yorku.ca/graduatestudents for further details on the admissions requirements for this program.



degree requirements

MA Program

Students will be required to take the equivalent of three full graduate courses consistent with their plan of study. At least two of the three courses will be in Humanities. One of the three courses may be a Directed Reading course (Humanities 5000), as approved by the Program Director.

Major Research Paper

Students will be required to demonstrate in a Major Research Paper their grasp of a subject within the interdisciplinary study of culture in Humanities. The Major Research Paper may be related to the work that students have done in one or more of their courses, but it must demonstrate independent research.

PhD Program

All PhD candidates are assigned an interim supervisor on entry to the program. A primary supervisor as agreed upon by the student, the faculty member, and the Program Director must be selected by March 15 of the first year in the program.

A Comprehensive Supervisory Committee as agreed upon by the student, supervisor, the faculty members and Program Director is required by May 15 of the first year in the program. The supervisor and supervisory committee will work with the student to develop a program of study integrating course work, participation in the Humanities Graduate Seminar, comprehensive examinations and dissertation that demonstrates interdisciplinarity in the study of culture in a Humanities context. All updates to a student's status require completion of the PhD Plan of Study.

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Learn more about this program's degree requirements at www.yorku.ca/gradhuma



facilities & resources

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apply now

Apply online at www.yorku.ca/graduatestudents or contact Graduate Admissions at 416 736 5000.

contact information

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www.yorku.ca/graduatestudents or call 416 736 5000



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