

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ST. GEORGE CAMPUS
HIS491Y1Y - Senior Thesis (Senior Thesis Year Seminar)
BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS 2022-23

ELIGIBILITY:

- a. Going into your 4th year (i.e., you expect to complete at least 14.0 FCEs by the end of August 2022)
- b. You must be enrolled in the **HIS Specialist or Major program. Priority enrollment for Specialists.**
- c. **You must have a A- (A minus) average in no less than 4.0 HIS courses, or obtain special permission of the instructor and the Associate Chair (Undergraduate).**

EXCLUSION:

Students are **not allowed** to enrol in Independent Study courses (**HIS395H1 or Y1, HIS498H1**) at the same time they are registered in HIS491Y1Y. **Students are allowed only ONE independent studies/thesis credit in History (i.e. one full year course or equivalent).**

REQUIREMENTS:

Seminar (25%):

- Students enrolled in HIS491Y1Y will attend a weekly seminar scheduled Mondays 14-16 Natalie Zemon Davis Room, Location: Sidney Smith 2098.
- The seminar instructor will guide the students through the research and writing process. Students will be graded on attendance, engaged participation, and the oral presentation of their work in progress to their peers.

Thesis (75%):

- The student is responsible for finding a supervisor. The supervisor will grade the prospectus for the thesis (15%), which will be due to the supervisor no later than the end of the Fall term , and the thesis itself (60%) due at the end of the Winter term (specific dates to be determined by the supervisor.
- The thesis is a substantive scholarly piece of written work which can be undertaken by students in all sub-disciplines in history. Theses may variously address a particular research question, the critical analysis of a body of literature, or case studies based on primary sources.
- The thesis will not be a work previously undertaken for credit in History.
- The thesis will be 7000 words to a upper maximum of 12,000 words.

DEADLINES:

- 1) **The deadline for the first round of applications is June 24th, 2022.** Acceptance in HIS491Y1Y is based on merit (GPA and the strength of the proposal), with specialists being giving priority.
- 2) Applications will be accepted for a **second round of applications** between **July 15th and August 20th, 2022 ONLY** if enrollment space remains in HIS491Y 1Y after the first round of balloting.
- 3) NOTIFICATION: For first round you will be notified by the Undergraduate Office **by June 30th, 2022** of the outcome of your application.
- 4) If space remains in the seminar (there is a cap of 16), and late applications are accepted, second round students will be notified by September 1, 2022.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Identify a proposed thesis topic for an area in which you have **adequate and suitable background preparation**. Do not propose, for example, researching a senior thesis on the history of residential schools in Canada when you have taken no undergraduate courses in Canadian history or Indigenous Studies.
2. **Reach out to a prospective supervisor**. You should approach a professor who has taught you before and is familiar with your work. Send a thoughtful, well-crafted paragraph to this professor describing your proposed topic and your background preparation and why you feel the supervisor would be a good choice. Note: Only faculty with continuing appointments at the St. George campus can be a senior thesis supervisor (not a graduate student, post-doctoral fellow or sessional lecturer). If the professor is not available or if you don't know of a suitable faculty member for your topic of interest, contact Professor Heidi Bohaker, Associate Chair Undergraduate: history.ugchr@utoronto.ca for advice.
3. **Send your prospective supervisor a copy of your academic record** (saved as a PDF from Acorn) to demonstrate your background preparation and readiness.
4. **Discuss your proposed project with your proposed supervisor and obtain their consent** to supervise your senior thesis, if you are accepted into HIS491Y1Y.
5. **Write a short** (approximately two pages double-spaced) **thesis proposal** and save it as a PDF. Be sure to show the draft proposal to your supervisor. They may have helpful advice! The thesis proposal should:
 - identify the topic and scope of your proposed project
 - situate the project in the existing historiography
 - identify possible sources and methods you will use to research your topic
 - explain your reason for undertaking this research, and why you wish to complete a senior thesis
 - include a listing of works cited.
6. Send your thesis proposal and academic record as PDF attachments to: history.ugchr@utoronto.ca, **copying (cc)** the history.ugadvisor@utoronto.ca **AND YOUR PROPOSED SUPERVISOR!** Use the subject line: HIS491Y1Y Senior Thesis Ballot.
7. **In the body of your email, copy and complete the following:**

As of August 2022, I will have completed ____ History Credits (H courses count as .5).
My Program(s) of Study is/are: _____ College: _____
List course#, title and session of Independent Study Courses taken previously.
Professor [Insert Supervisor's Name Here] has agreed to supervise my senior thesis if accepted.
Your Name: _____ Student Number: _____

That's it! See deadlines for the timeline of notification for acceptance.