

Major or Honours?

Why Consider the Honours Program in Geography

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Department of Geography

Saint Mary's University

Outline of Presentation

- Purpose of the Honours program
- Differences between Major and Honours
- Admission requirements
- Completion requirements
- Possible summer research work
- Finding a research supervisor
- Current faculty members in the Department
- Examples of Honours research projects
- Further information and questions

Purpose of the Honours Program

- Advanced education/study in geography
- *Preparation for graduate school*
 - Most Masters programs require or prefer an Honours degree for admission
 - Consider that entry to most Masters programs is competitive
- Opportunity to focus on an advanced research project

Differences between Major and Honours programs

- Major requires 48 credit hours and Honours requires 72 credit hours
- Certain geography courses beyond Major requirements are required for Honours
- Higher academic requirements for entry to program and graduation from Honours

Admission Requirements for the Honours Program

- Grade point average: B standing or higher in Geography courses, and satisfactory grades in non-geography courses
- Identification of a potential research supervisor
- New Honours student applications are reviewed and signed by the Chair of the Department
 - Forms are available at Registrar's office

Completion Requirements

- Minimum cumulative quality point average of 3.0 (B-average)
- Total of 72 credit hours in Geography
- Specific courses required for Honours:
 - Honours Research Project GEOG 4526.0
 - Seminar in Theoretical Geography
GEOG 4406.1(.2)
 - Seminar in Applied Geography
GEOG 4406.1(.2)

Arts or Science?

- Honours in Geography can be done as either a B.A. or B.Sc.
- Similar regulations apply to B.A. Honours and B.Sc. Honours within Geography
- Each faculty (Arts and Science) has its own requirements that must be met - see calendar for more details

Honours Research Projects

- Honours Research Project is a six-credit hour course, running from September to April
- *Choose a topic you find interesting*
- First formal step is to prepare a Research Proposal
- Research for the Honours Research Project may be done in the prior summer
 - For summer field work, proposal must be submitted and approved in the spring

Possible Summer Research Work

- Faculty members engaged in research often need student assistants - and sometimes have money to pay them
- Participation of undergraduate students in research is an objective of Saint Mary's
- Honours students are preferred as research assistants, because:
 - Proven academic strength
 - Honours research project can be related to the faculty member's research program

Finding a Research Supervisor

- It is *not a requirement* to do summer research for the Honours Research Project
- It is *not a requirement* to work on a faculty member's research project or in directly in the member's area of current research
- Faculty members are limited, by practical considerations, to two students each per year
- Certain faculty members may not be available since we alternately go on sabbatical

Signing Up for the Honours Program

- When should you sign up?
 - Typically during second or third year, after your academic record is established
- Signing up earlier is better
 - Better planning for the required courses
 - Getting the supervisor you want
- Student should approach a faculty member with the most similar research interests to act as the research supervisor

Current Research in the Department of Geography

Dr. R. McCalla (Chair)
Ph.D. Hull (1975)

- Economic geography
- Transportation
- Ports
- Shipping



Current Research in the Department of Geography

Dr. Hugh Millward

Ph.D. Western Ontario (1975)

- Urban geography
- Rural geography
- Community planning
- Nova Scotia
- Japan



Current Research in the Department of Geography

Dr. Cristian Suteanu

Ph.D. Romanian
Academy (1997)

- Geosystems analysis
and modeling
- Environmental and
cultural communication
- Natural hazards



Current Research in the Department of Geography

Dr. Danika van Proosdij
Ph.D. Guelph (2001)

- Geomorphology
- Coastal geomorphology
- Biophysical processes
- Applications of G.I.S.



Current Research in the Department of Geography

Dr. Cathy Conrad

Ph.D. Wilfrid Laurier (1999)

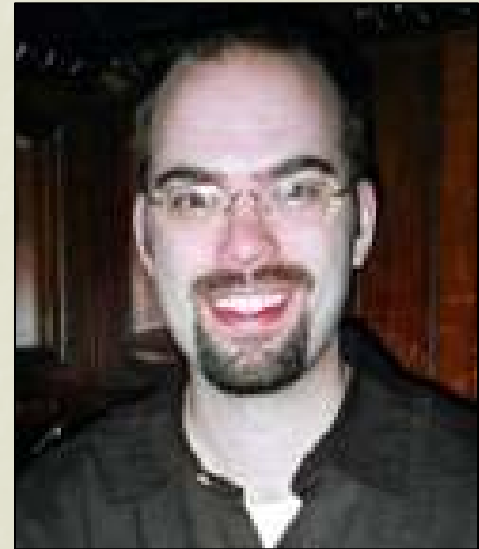
- Environmental geography
- Hydrology
- Environmental monitoring
- Watershed management
- Community-based research



Current Research in the Department of Geography

Mr. Jason Grek Martin
Ph.D. Queen's (pending)

- Cultural geographies
- Social geographies
- Historical geographies
- Western Canada



Current Research in the Department of Geography

Dr. Philip Giles

Ph.D. Calgary (1996)

- Geomorphology
- Coastal geomorphology
- Remote sensing
- Digital elevation models



Example Honours Projects in the Department of Geography

- Oliver Woods
An Integrative Approach to Prioritizing Aquatic Habitat Restoration Sites in the Wooden's River Watershed, Nova Scotia [Conrad]
- Sarah Bowman
An Analysis of the Dynamic Fingerprint of Seismicity in the North Atlantic Ocean in Space and Time: Implications for Tsunamigenic Processes [Suteanu]
- Jennifer Graham
Analysis of Surface Cover Classification Using IKONOS Digital Imagery in a Complex Habitat: Pointe de l'Est, Magdalen Islands [Giles]

Example Honours Projects in the Department of Geography

- Jason May
Inland Distribution Terminal: A Locational Search [McCalla]
- Saide Sayah
A Cumulative Effect Assessment of the Petite Riviere Watershed [Giles]
- Stephen Croft
A Geographical Analysis of Tourism in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia [Millward]

Example Honours Projects in the Department of Geography

- Jeff Lipton
A Base Study of the Fluvial Geomorphology and Spatial Characteristics of Suspended Solid Concentrations in the Little Sackville River, Nova Scotia [Conrad]
- Emlyn Jean
Land Use Impacts Around the Port of Halifax and the Halifax International Airport 1971-1996 [McCalla]
- Karen Connolly
An Investigation of Digital Image Classification Methods for Kluane National Park Reserve, Yukon Territory [Giles]

Example Honours Projects in the Department of Geography

- Ian Yule
Residential Revival in Old Dartmouth - 1986 to 2000
[Millward]
- Martin King
Examples of Prograded Dune Ridge Complexes in the Maritime Provinces Region [Giles]
- Sarah Townsend
*Spatial Analysis of the Growth and Establishment of *Spartina alterniflora* after Construction of the Windsor Causeway*
[van Proosdij]

Further Information

- Copies of the following two handouts are available on my website:

*Regulations for the Honours Research Project
(Geography 4526.0)*

*Geography 4526.0 Honours Research Project:
A Guide for Students*

Question Period

- Questions are welcome now
- Or at any time, see:
 - Dr. Giles (Honours Program Co-ordinator)
 - Department Chair
 - Any faculty member