

**YORK UNIVERSITY**

Final Assessment Report Executive Summary

**CANADIAN STUDIES**

Glendon Campus

**Cyclical Program Review – 2010 to 2017**

This Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the programs listed below.

**Program(s) Reviewed:**

BA, IBA Specialized Honours  
BA, IBA Honours  
BA, IBA Honours Double Major  
BA, IBA Honours Major/Minor  
BA Honours Minor  
BA

**Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:**

Dr. Emily Gilbert, Associate Professor, Canadian Studies Program and Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto  
Dr. Suzanne Langlois, Associate Professor, Department of History, Glendon College, York University

**Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:**

Cyclical Program Review Launch: August 2016  
Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 19, 2017  
Date of the Site Visit: November 14, 2017  
Review Report received: January 2018  
Program Response received: March 2018  
Dean's Response received: May 2018

The Final Assessment Report was delayed because of a labour disruption. As a result, many of the recommendations had already been acted on prior to the Joint Subcommittee's deliberations. Where possible, actions taken are reflected in the Implementation Plan.

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, March 2019

Submitted by Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic, York University



This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2013

**SITE VISIT: November 14, 2017**

During the site visit the reviewers met with the follow individuals and groups:

- Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic, York University
- Colin Coates, Program Coordinator
- Teaching staff: Colin Coates, Geoffrey Ewen, Michael Barutciski, Alexis Lachaine, Audrey Pyée, Jean Michel Montsion (via Skype)
- Seven undergraduate students
- Head of Department, Multidisciplinary Studies, Professor Betsey Price
- Glendon College Principal Professor Donald Ipperciel
- Frost Librarian Dany Savard

**OUTCOME:**

The Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance received the Program and Decanal responses to the recommendations. The Institutional plans are clear and achievable and, once completed, will serve to enhance the quality of the program.

A report on the progress of the initiatives that will be undertaken in response to accepted recommendations will be provided in the Follow-up Report which will be due 18 months (September 2020) after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2024 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2025 or Winter of 2026.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS:**

The reviewers said the following in their report, “The overall impression of the program is that it comprises very committed faculty members, who have a strong sense of collegiality and who work with a consensus-driven decision-making process. The students in the program are effusive about its strengths, and detailed their positive experiences in Canadian Studies courses and with their instructors.”

They noted that “what makes the Canadian Studies program at Glendon unique in Canada is its bilingualism. There are course offerings and requirements in both English and French. Students have options in their first and second year to take courses that are either in English or French (with requirements that some courses in each are taken) while the upper-level core courses are bilingual.” In addition, the reviewers remarked, “several of the program’s faculty edited and contributed to the only French-language textbook in the field. The bilingualism of the program resonates well with Glendon’s focus on bilingualism and French language learning, as it is the only campus in southern Ontario to offer a range of university programming in French.”

The Experiential Education website at Glendon provides excellent information for students about the variety of opportunities available.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY:**

The reviewers note that: “Canadian Studies is a small, boutique program that is cherished by its students. But the numbers of students in the program is low. Glendon Principal Donald Ipperciel has questioned the future viability of the program if the number of students in the program does not increase (although it is not clear at what

number the program would be sustainable). With this objective in mind, and the need to ensure strong course enrolments, the following recommendations are presented, several of which carry over from the 2010 program review.” Many of the recommendations provide a description of the evidence and rationale and have been edited to focus on the recommended actions.

In addition, the Reviewers made a number of insightful suggestions which have been incorporated into the implementation plan.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Subcommittee at its meeting in March 2019.

Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1 That more clarity could be provided regarding the program's goals and objectives.	The program will develop a new statement that will be used to update the program's website, in alignment with the Principal's initiative to establish a graduate attributes framework for Glendon.	Program in consultation from the Vice-Provost's Office and the Principal's Office at Glendon	Follow-up Report due September 2020.
2a That the program be promoted at Fall campus day with information about the program that is helpful to potential students.	Brochure has been created. See also action 1 re: graduate attributes at Glendon.		Completed.
2b That the Program website be improved.	Program assistant to receive appropriate training from Glendon technology services.		Completed.
2c That the program be relocated to a cognate discipline.	Program and Principal agree this will not be implemented. No further action.	n/a	n/a
3a That the course descriptions for first and fourth-year courses be rewritten to better convey content.	Recommendation has been acted on. No further action required.	Program	Completed
3b That scheduling conflicts across Canadian Studies courses be avoided.	The Program will review scheduling for conflict on a yearly basis.	Program	Ongoing
3c That efforts be made to reach out to students in Canadian Studies courses about the option to major.	The Program will reach out to outstanding students in first and second year about the option to major or minor.	Program	Ongoing

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT, CANADIAN STUDIES, GLENDON

4 That first- and fourth-year six-credit courses (full-year) be reviewed for impact on students.	The Program will explore options and outcome will be reported in the Fall 2020 Follow-up Report.	Program	Follow-up Report due September 2020.
5 That more resources be made available for Second Language Learners, for example, a French Second Language tutorial in the first-year course.	Establish a French as a Second Language Tutorial for the introductory course.	Program	Follow-up Report due September 2020.
7 That the development of student exchanges be explored.	The program will ensure that students are well-informed about summer programs and exchanges.	Program	Follow-up Report due September 2020.
8 That Canadian Studies incorporate more kinds of experiential learning and/or internships and/or service-learning.	Since the creation of the Experiential Education position at Glendon many opportunities have been created.	n/a	n/a
9 That the Program consider ways to build student community through annual projects or events, etc.	The program, in consultation with the Principal's Office, will explore the possibility of establishing a Glendon "Canadian Club."	Program and Principal's Office	Follow-up Report due September 2020.
10 That the relationship with the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies on the Keele campus be strengthened.	The Robarts Centre to be invited to hold one or several lectures on the Glendon campus.	Program	Follow-up Report due September 2020.
11 Support for Contract Instructors: That part-time instructors in the program have regular access to office space and computing facilities.	Glendon has space challenges but has been able to provide office space for all part-time instructors. No further action required.	n/a	n/a
12 That the program engages with students in the program to solicit their feedback on the student experience.	Given that the Principal raised concerns about the viability of the program, the program will align its ongoing consultations with	Program/ Principal's Office in consultation with the Vice-Provost's Office.	Ongoing; Report on activities in the Fall 2020 Follow-up

	<p>students with its responses to changes in vision, profile, curriculum (including experiential learning and exchange opportunities). The 18-month follow-up report will document the program's activities and decisions and provide the desired outcomes that would indicate success.</p>		<p>Report.</p>
--	---	--	----------------