

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report Executive Summary

PHILOSOPHY

Campus Glendon

Philosophy, BA, Glendon

Cyclical Program Review – 2008 to 2015

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

Program(s) Reviewed:

BA Specialized Honours
BA Honours
BA
Certificate in Law and Social Thought

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. Samantha Brennan, Professor, Department of Philosophy/Women's Studies,
Western University, Ontario
Dr. John Heil, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Washington University, St. Louis,
Missouri
Dr. Kirk Ludwig, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Indiana University, Bloomington,
Indiana
Dr. Patricia Wood, Professor, Department of Geography, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones

Cyclical Program Review Launch: September 2016
Self-study (undergraduate and graduate) submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August
2017
Date of the Site Visit: October 4-6, 2017
Review Report received: December 2017
Program Response received: February 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: October 4-6, 2017

Over the three days, meetings were held at the Keele campus and the Glendon campus. The reviewers began the site visit with a meeting with Vice-Provost Academic, Alice Pitt and Faculty of Graduate Studies Interim Dean, Fahim Quadir on the Keele Campus. In addition, the reviewers met with LAPS Associate Dean Programs, JJ McMurtry, and Associate Dean Research and Grad Studies, Sandra Whitworth. On the Keele campus meetings were held with the Chair, Associate Chair, Undergraduate Program Director, Graduate Program Director, Deputy Graduate Program Director, the Cognitive Science Coordinator and the Modes of Reasoning Coordinator. Meetings were also held with full-time faculty at Keele and at Glendon, contract faculty members and student groups at both campuses. The reviewers had lunch with graduate students and met with Graduate faculty members, faculty from the Cognitive Science program and the University librarians.

On morning of the 5th, the review committee met with the Full-Time Faculty at Glendon College, and then with representatives of Glendon College contract faculty. Next, the review committee met with the Principal of Glendon, Donald Ipperciel, and then with Glendon College undergraduate Philosophy students.

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 after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (September 2020).

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 noted the following about the Glendon Philosophy program: “The Philosophy Department at Glendon offers a bilingual undergraduate major in Philosophy, courses that support students learning in other majors, as well as the Law and Social Thought program. The department is to be commended on the recently strengthened Law and Social Thought certificate, which connects the liberal arts to issues of the law and society outside of the academy. It is also notable that the department, at time of shrinking resources, has introduced a number of new courses into the curriculum, including Philosophy of Time, Philosophy of Race, Kant, Wittgenstein, Philosophy and its Logic, Truth, and two course sequences on political philosophy and moral philosophy. This is quite impressive for a small department.”

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below outlines the implementation plan approved by the Joint Subcommittee on Quality Assurance in March 2019 and includes the suggestions provided by the reviewers.

Recommendations & Suggestions	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
RECOMMENDATIONS			
1 That symbolic logic be required all the philosophy BAs.	Program to determine inclusion of logic in MODR and PHIL courses.	Program	Report on outcome in Follow-up Report due September 2020
2 That opportunities be sought to work cooperatively with other departments at Glendon to develop new programs (modeled on the Certificate in Law and Social Thought) that will attract students.	Exploration of certificate or other options will continue.	Program and Principal's Office	Report on outcome in Follow-up Report.
3 That the faculty complement be increased.	Principal's Office to finalize complement plan for Glendon and decisions about Philosophy will follow.	Principal	Report on outcomes in the Follow-up Report due September 2020
4 That departmental chairs be involved in planning and budgeting	Program chairs to attend the Chairs and Directors program offered annually by the AVP Teaching and Learning.	Principal and Department	Report on outcomes in the Follow-up Report due September 2020.
SUGGESTIONS			
1 Require both ancient and modern philosophy for the Honours BAs and	Department to consider.		Report on outcomes in

institute distribution requirements for the BA.			Follow-up Report.
2 Introduce Senior Seminar when faculty complement allows.	Department to consider.	Department	n/a
3 Explore experiential learning opportunities in the Law and Social Thought certificate.	Department to consider.	Department	Report on outcomes in Follow-up Report.
4 Make known value of a philosophy degree.	Department to update information in consultation with communications and recruitment staff.	Department	n/a
5 Institute a “freshman seminar”	Department to consider when faculty complement allows. No further action.	Department	n/a
6 Congratulate students successful in philosophy courses.	Department to implement. No further action.	Department	n/a
7 Establish group to discuss experiential and online learning practices.	Department to point instructors to available resources and develop an EE strategy appropriate to philosophy.	Department	Report on outcomes in Follow-up Report.
8 Improve communication and coordination between Glendon and Keele.	Department to consider opportunities. No further action required.	Department	Report on outcomes in Follow-up Report.