

# Two-Year Progress Report Mennonite Studies (Minor) November 2018

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## **Background:**

The last program review was conducted in 2016-17. The self-study was written by the Director of the Mennonite Studies (MS) Minor (and currently Dean) Dr. Marlene Epp, with administrative support from the Dean's assistant and the College's registration and scheduling officer. Current students and alumni were consulted via a brief survey. Faculty who teach core courses in the Minor provided input and the Conrad Grebel Archivist-Librarian completed the section on library resources. The Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies Advisory Group (IAMS), which oversees the Minor, met several times to offer input for the review. Institutional Analysis and Planning provided statistical support as requested.

A site visit was held in November 2016, hosting UWaterloo reviewers Steven Bednarski (St. Jerome's University) and Stefan Idziak (Physics and Astronomy). The reviewers submitted their recommendations within the required timeline and the IAMS group met several times to discuss the recommendations and an implementation plan. The Director of Mennonite Studies submitted a response to the recommendations and proceeded to oversee the implementation plan.

The Final Assessment Report was approved by Senate Undergraduate Council on June 19, 2018, and presented to Senate for information.

## **Progress on Implementation Plan:**

Recommendations:

1. Identify a set of degree level expectations and learning outcomes, and make them visible online and in print advertising.

Status: **completed**

Details: The Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies Advisory Group (which oversees the Minor) developed the following set of degree level expectations and learning outcomes. These have been posted on the program webpage.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/academics/undergraduate-studies/mennonite-studies>

Graduates with a Mennonite Studies Minor will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of Anabaptist-Mennonite origins within 16<sup>th</sup> century European religious reformations.
  2. Articulate the basic religious beliefs of Anabaptist-Mennonites.
  3. Demonstrate knowledge of Mennonites from a variety of disciplinary, contextual, and experiential perspectives.
  4. Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse groups of Mennonites globally and locally.
  5. Articulate the present-day role of Mennonites in the organizational and institutional life of Waterloo Region.
  6. Demonstrate an understanding of the place of ethnic and religious minorities in Canada and their contribution to the creation of multicultural identities.
  7. Show basic competency in working with primary source material.
  8. Demonstrate understanding of the role of archives in Mennonite Studies research.
  9. Have experienced local Mennonite culture and religion through field trips and volunteer activity.
  10. Demonstrate critical research and writing skills.
2. Have IAMS take a greater leadership role to help guide and shape the program, particularly in light of upcoming retirements.

Status: **completed**

Details: IAMS does have leadership in guiding and shaping the program. The group meets regularly to plan the research and teaching activity of the Mennonite Studies program. Conrad Grebel University College hired a new Music Department faculty member in July 2019 who will maintain the church music and worship components of the course offerings. The College will not likely be hiring in the area of English Literature and thus the course on Mennonite Literature will probably need to be de-activated. This topic represented particular expertise of a retired faculty member; because Conrad Grebel does not have teaching equity in English, we do not normally hire in this discipline.

3. Establish an independent MS rubric and cross-list, where appropriate and possible, courses offered by other units.

Status: **completed**

Details: A Mennonite Studies course indicator – MENN – was approved in Spring 2018 and takes effect January 2019. At this time we don't see the value in cross-listing existing courses.

4. Cross-list ARTS 125 with MS 125 and HIST and / or RS courses to improve visibility and enrolment.

Status: **completed**

Details: The Religious Studies Department declined the invitation to cross-listed ARTS 125 (Who are the Mennonites?) because they do not want more 100-level courses. We already have several History cross-lists with Mennonite Studies courses and decided this was not appropriate. Instead, and in keeping with recommendation 3, we renumbered Arts 125 as MENN 125. The counsel given to us was not to cross-list this course.

5. Create a Special Topics or Directed Readings course within the MS rubric if the enrolment in MS grows significantly.

Status: **completed**

Details: Two new courses were approved in Spring 2018 and will be effective January 2019: MENN 390, Special Topics in Mennonite Studies; and MENN 397, Directed Readings in Mennonite Studies. We hope to offer a special topics course in the 2019-20 academic year.

6. Expand upon the experiential learning / primary research project conducted in HIST 247 to allow for greater library and archive internship work elsewhere in the curriculum.

Status: **ongoing**

Details: A library-archives assignment, resulting in a museum-ready exhibit, has been developed as an ongoing component of HIST 247 (Mennonite History). We continue to explore options for similar assignments in other Mennonite Studies courses. In 2018, we offered the first not-for-credit Archives Internship, incorporated into an existing academic award. This allows students to explore and develop their skills in historical research and archives work, and to assist the Archives itself in processing collections and developing exhibits. We hope to create a for-credit option in the future.

7. Make explicit in print and online other experiential learning components of the MS Minor, such as opportunities to interact with local members of the Mennonite community. Standardize and promote the experiential learning components on the program.

Status: **ongoing**

Details: We continue to work at making the experiential components of the MS Minor more explicit in our course descriptions, syllabi, and advertising. We are not sure that standardization of these is possible or practical, as new opportunities arise each year that demand flexibility in the program.

8. Advertise at other AFIW and Waterloo locations.

Status: **ongoing**

Details: We developed a new poster and other print materials in 2017-18. These were circulated to appropriate units at UWaterloo and in the AFIW. We have worked at greater clarity and visibility in the program's online presence.

Explain any circumstances that have altered the original implementation plan:

We have followed through with the implementation plan originally presented. The Mennonite Studies Minor continues to face the challenge of working program development with very few resources of time; the Director receives no time release for overseeing the program and there are no dedicated staff for the program.

**Implementation Plan: Recommendations for Mennonite Studies Minor, in response to program review, March 2017**  
**Updated November 2018**

	Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading and Resourcing (if applicable) Follow-up	Timeline for addressing Recommendation
1.	Identify a set of degree level expectations and learning outcomes, and make them visible online and in print advertising;	We will draw on the objectives now listed in the core required courses and also generalize them to suit the whole Minor.	Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group and Conrad Grebel Dean.	Completed Fall 2018 and posted on website.
2.	Have IAMS take a greater leadership role to help guide and shape the program, particularly in light of upcoming retirements;	IAMS does have leadership in guiding and shaping the program and will make its program needs known to the College Dean in light of upcoming retirements.	Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group.	Complete. New faculty in Music hired July 2018 with specialties in church, music, and worship, thus maintaining those components of the course offerings.
3.	Establish an independent MS rubric and cross-list, where appropriate and possible, courses offered by other units;	We have already inquired about the process for creating a new course code and, if approved, hope to have this in place for 2018-19.	Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group and Conrad Grebel Dean.	Complete. New course rubric, MENN, was approved in spring 2018, effective January 2019.
4.	Cross-list ARTS 125 with MS 125 and HIST and / or RS courses to improve visibility and enrolment;	We have already put in a request to the Religious Studies Department for a cross-listing. Declined.	Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group,	Complete. ARTS 125 was renumbered as MENN 125. We decided not to cross list this course since RS declined and other

			Religious Studies Department, and Conrad Grebel Dean.	disciplinary crosslistings were not advisable.
5.	Create a Special Topics or Directed Readings course within the MS rubric if the enrolment in MS grows significantly;	We will give some thought to this after the MS course rubric is created; this is contingent on faculty resources to offer a special topics course, as well as student demand.	Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group and Conrad Grebel Dean.	Complete. Two new courses were approved in Spring 2018 and will be effective January 2019: MENN 390, Special Topics in Mennonite Studies; and MENN 397, Directed Readings in Mennonite Studies. We hope to offer a MENN 390 soon.
6.	Expand upon the experiential learning / primary research project conducted in HIST 247 to allow for greater library and archive internship work elsewhere in the curriculum;	We will incorporate library-archives assignments as an ongoing component of History 247 and will explore options for similar assignments in other MS courses. As well, we will develop an Archives Internship that will allow students to explore and develop their skills in historical research and archives work, and also assist the Archives itself in processing collections and developing exhibits.	Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group, Archivist, and Conrad Grebel Dean.	Ongoing. A library-archives assignment, resulting in a museum-ready exhibit, has been developed as an ongoing component of HIST 247 (Mennonite History). We continue to explore options for similar assignments in other Mennonite Studies courses. In 2018, we offered the first not-for-credit archives internship, incorporated into an existing academic award. This allows students to explore and develop

				<p>their skills in historical research and archives work, and also assist the Archives itself in processing collections and developing exhibits. We hope to create a for-credit option in the future.</p>
7.	<p>Make explicit in print and online other experiential learning components of the MS Minor, such as opportunities to interact with local members of the Mennonite community. Standardize and promote the experiential learning components on the program;</p>	<p>We will make the experiential components of the MS Minor more explicit in our course descriptions, syllabi, and advertising. We will discuss whether standardization of these is possible or practical.</p>	<p>Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group, Instructors of MS courses, and Conrad Grebel Dean.</p>	<p>Ongoing. We continue to work at making the experiential components of the MS Minor more explicit in our course descriptions, syllabi, and advertising. In particular, at least 3 courses (MENN 125, SOC 275, and HIST 247) include one or more field trips. We advertise these each term as a feature of the course offering. We are not sure that standardization of these is possible or practical, as new opportunities arise each year that demand flexibility in the program.</p>

8.	Advertise at other AFIW and Waterloo locations.	We will develop more online and print materials to advertise the Plan at UWaterloo, focusing on academic units where we think there might be most interest.	Director of Mennonite Studies Minor, working with Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group, Conrad Grebel Communications staff, and relevant academic units at UWaterloo.	Ongoing. We developed a new poster and other print materials in 2017-18. These were circulated to appropriate units at UWaterloo and in the AFIW. We have worked at greater clarity and visibility in the program's online presence.
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Report on anything else you believe is appropriate to bring to Senate concerning this program:

N/A





Date of next program review: \_\_\_\_\_ 2023 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signatures of Approval:

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Chair/Director Date Nov 27/2018

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Date Nov 30/2018

AFIW Administrative Dean/Head (For AFIW programs only) Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Dean Date 5/xii/18

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Associate Vice-President, Academic Date  
(For undergraduate and augmented programs)

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Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Date  
(For graduate and augmented programs)