Major Modifications Proposal Guidelines

1. Program: **English**

2. Degree Designation: **MA and PhD**

3. Type of Modification: **Deletion of a field**

4. Effective Date: **January 1, 2015**

5. Provide a general description of the proposed changes to the program.

   We are cleaning up our calendar copy, having deleted “Linguistic and Stylistic Studies” from our program in 2010.

6. Provide the rationale for the proposed changes.

   See above. Our last course offerings in this field were GS/EN 6852 Systemic Functional Linguistics, offered in 2009-10 by Prof. James Benson to one student, and GS/EN 6850 Stylistics, offered in 2007-08 by Prof. William Greaves to two students. With Prof. Benson’s retirement and Prof. Greaves’ death, we no longer have sufficient faculty to sustain this field.

7. Comment on the alignment between the program changes with Faculty and/or University academic plans.

   **N/A**

8. Provide a detailed outline of the changes to the program and the associated learning outcomes, including how the proposed requirements will support the achievement of program learning objectives (i.e., the mapping of the requirements to the program learning outcomes).

   The learning outcomes document was drafted after the program had decided to close its linguistics field.

9. Summarize the consultation undertaken with relevant academic units, including commentary on the impact of the proposed changes on other programs. Provide individual statements from the relevant program(s) confirming consultation and their support.

   The closure of this field will not affect other programs, as the addition of a new field might. Students wishing to do graduate work in linguistics at York may apply for admission to the Graduate Program in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics.

10. Are changes to the program’s admission requirements being proposed coincident with the program change(s)? If so, outline the admission changes, and comment on the appropriateness of the revised requirements to the achievement of the program learning outcomes.

    **No.**
11. Describe any resource implications and how they are being addressed (e.g., through a reallocation of existing resources). If new/additional resources are required, provide a statement from the relevant Dean(s)/Principal confirming resources will be in place to implement the changes.

**No resource implications.**

12. Is the mode of delivery of the program changing? If so, comment on the appropriateness of the revised mode(s) of delivery to the achievement of the program learning outcomes.

**No.**

13. Is the assessment of teaching and learning within the program changing? If so, comment on the appropriateness of the revised forms of assessment to the achievement of the program learning outcomes.

**No.**

14. Provide a summary of how students currently enrolled in the program will be accommodated.

**N/A**

15. Provide as an appendix a side-by-side comparison of the existing and proposed program requirements as they will appear in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendar.
ENGLISH

The Graduate Program in English at York University offers courses in the traditional periods and areas in English language and literature. Fields within the program are Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration and Eighteenth Century, Romantic, Victorian, Modern, Contemporary, Canadian, American, Post-Colonial, Critical Theory, and Women and Literature. Study in linguistics/semiotics is also available at both the MA and PhD levels.

Many of the courses offered adopt an interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature. Candidates undertaking a thesis/dissertation are normally advised to work within one of the areas of special concentration or research. The subject need not, however, be related to the courses which the candidate is taking. MA and PhD students are also given the opportunity to work with faculty in certain research and teaching areas as part of their introduction to graduate studies. Generally, the aim of the program is to combine training in scholarly and critical skills with a broadly humanistic appreciation of the role of literature in society.

MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Graduates with an honours degree in English, or its equivalent, with a clear B+ average and at least a B+ in English and Humanities courses in the last two years of study may be admitted as candidates for the MA degree. Preference will be given to graduates with first class or high second class standing.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

MA Degree by Thesis
Candidates for the MA degree by thesis must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Courses
Two full courses, or equivalent, chosen from those offered at the 6000-level by the Graduate Program in English. With permission, one of these courses may be chosen from those offered at the 6000-level by another graduate program.

2. Thesis and Oral Examination
Candidates must submit a thesis based on original research organized in appropriate thesis form. It should demonstrate the candidate’s independence, originality, and understanding of the area of investigation. Candidates should consult the document Procedures for MA Students issued by the Graduate Program in English for further details. After the formal submission of the thesis, an oral examination, normally centred on the thesis and matters related to it, is held.

MA Degree by Research Paper
Candidates for the MA degree by research paper must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Courses
Three full courses, or equivalent, chosen from those offered at the 6000-level by the Graduate Program in English. With permission, one of these courses may be chosen from those offered at the 6000-level by another graduate program.

2. Research Paper
Candidates must undertake research under the direction of an English graduate program faculty member on an approved topic and write an extensive research paper of about 60 pages, incorporating this research. The paper will be graded by the faculty member directing the research and by a second reader.

MA Degree by Coursework
Candidates for the MA degree by coursework must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Courses
Four full courses, or equivalent, chosen from those offered at the 6000-level by the Graduate Program in English. With permission, one of these courses may be chosen from those offered at the 6000-level by another graduate program.

COGNATE REQUIREMENTS
All candidates must give evidence of facility in bibliography and research methods. To meet this requirement, candidates must attend the bibliography seminar which is graded pass/fail and is not for credit, or must submit proof of having completed a similar requirement elsewhere.

The seminar consists of fifteen seminar hours of bibliographical instruction and a written assignment. The assignment is tied to one of the courses in which the student is registered, and is evaluated by the course director and by the leader of the bibliography seminar.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
The normal qualification for admission to the PhD program is the York MA degree or its equivalent with at least a B+ average and undergraduate provisions as required for the master’s degree. Candidates will be expected to enter with a reasonable knowledge of the full range of studies in English literature and language.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
Candidates for the doctoral degree must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Professional Workshops Program
Participation in this non-credit course is mandatory for all doctoral students. At strategic points in their doctoral studies, candidates will attend workshops focusing on topics relevant to their intellectual and professional development. New students will enroll in the PhD Workshops Program at the same time as they register for their first courses. Before graduating, students must attend nine different workshops:

i. Applying for funding; ii. Current intellectual issues;
iii. Comprehensive examination; iv. Professionalization I: presenting at conferences and getting published; v. Writing the dissertation proposal and research methods; vi. Teaching strategies I: Lecturing; vii. Teaching strategies II: Course design; viii. Professionalization II: applying for jobs and postdoctoral fellowships; ix. The interview process.
The Professional Workshops Program is designed to help students complete their doctoral studies in an informed, timely and productive fashion. Each workshop is offered once a year. The PhD Workshops Program Coordinator advises students on how to schedule their attendance effectively. As well, the Coordinator informs people about upcoming workshops and maintains the record of students' attendance. Registration at each workshop consists of signing in for the session and completing an exit survey.

2. Courses
Successful completion of three full courses, or equivalent, of which normally at least two are taken in the PhD I year, and the remaining in the PhD II year. With permission, one of these courses may be chosen from those offered at the 6000-level by another graduate program within or outside York University.

All PhD candidates are required to demonstrate some acquaintance with pre-1798 writing. This may be done either:
(a) by presenting evidence of successful completion of a full course, or equivalent, based on pre-1798 writings at the MA level,
or,
(b) by successful completion of at least one half course based on pre-1798 writings during the PhD I or PhD II years.

3. Comprehensive Examinations
Candidates, before embarking upon the writing of a dissertation, must pass a major field examination and a dissertation sub-field examination. Examination regulations are outlined in the program handbook. The examinations are given in May, September, and December each year.

Candidates take the first of these examinations before the end of term five, in the second year, and the second examination normally follows by the end of February in term eight, in the third year. Candidates are required to pass written and oral examinations in the major field examination and an oral examination only in the dissertation sub-field. The examinations are assessed by specialists in the field. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a sophisticated familiarity with the corpus of texts comprising the field, together with its history and salient critical issues (or, when appropriate, to display a sophisticated mastery of methodological practice). The examiners' assessment, including any conditions that they impose, are conveyed by the chief examiner to the candidate. Conditions may involve retaking part of the examination, or taking additional courses in the PhD III year, or both. Students may try the comprehensive examinations two times only.

4. Dissertation Proposal Workshop
The material objective of this mandatory, pass/fail workshop is the production by each student of a dissertation proposal. While format may vary, two proposal drafts are the focal text each week for critical discussion. The workshop does not seek to circumvent or override committee supervision and requires supervisory committees to work with students as they draft their proposals in the seminar. The educational objective of the seminar is the development of a thought/writing process specific to proposing critical ideas in an academic format. Students are encouraged to write a clear and sufficiently detailed proposal outlining the topic, the context(s) in which it arises, the theory and methodology sustaining its research and elaboration, and its contribution to the field. The workshop also aims to have students internalise a form and logic of proposing intellectual ideas, their development and appropriate research methods, and the implications of those ideas for other purposes, such as grant applications, post-doctoral fellowships, and book prospectuses.

5. Dissertation and Oral Examination
After their examinations and the dissertation proposal workshop, candidates must conduct a research study and report the results in appropriate dissertation form. Candidates should consult the document Procedures for PhD Students issued by the Graduate Program in English for further details. Candidates must, through their supervisors, submit for approval a brief prospectus of their intended study. After the formal submission of the dissertation, an oral examination, normally centred on the dissertation and matters related to it, is held. In addition, candidates are given the opportunity, on a voluntary basis, to present their dissertation to a program colloquium.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
Any student of English Literature beyond the MA level must have some working competence (reading comprehension/translation) in one language other than English. By the end of the fifth term, all PhD students are required to demonstrate a reading knowledge of French (or of a language other than English demonstrably relevant to their approved course of study) in either of two ways:
(a) passing the program's translation exam; or,
(b) successful completion of the graduate courses French 5712 3.0: French Reading Course for Academic Purposes (Basic) and French 5713 3.0: French Reading Course for Academic Purposes (Intermediate).

LINGUISTIC AND STYLISTIC STUDIES
The Graduate Program in English offers students the opportunity to focus on linguistic and stylistic for the degrees of MA and PhD.
The following courses are relevant for students pursuing this field of interest: English 6840 6.0, 6841 6.0, 6820 6.0, 6831 3.0, 6832 3.0, 6840 6.0, 6841 6.0, 6850 6.0, 6851 6.0, 6860 6.0, 6870 6.0, 6880 6.0, 6890 3.0 and 6990 6.0.
A concentration on this course of interest is intended to help students gain an explicit and theoretically consistent knowledge of language in general and of English in particular. Students are required to apply this knowledge to the description of both literary and non-literary texts in contexts of situation and culture.

For students selecting linguistic/stylistic studies, requirements of the Graduate Program in English are to be met with the following specifications: Doctoral candidates are required to include among their courses at the MA or PhD level 6831 3.0, 6832 3.0, 6850 6.0, 6840 6.0, or to demonstrate that they have already taken analogous courses in other universities' graduate programs.

In addition to the normal language requirements, linguistic/stylistic doctoral candidates must meet additional language requirements as set out in the PhD Language Requirements Regulation.