# 1 YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT

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| **Graduate Program:** | **Literatures of Modernity (MA)** |
| Peer Review Team: | Dr. Heather Murray, (University of Toronto)<br>Dr. Stephen Powell, (Concordia/UofGuelph)<br>Dr. Jeremy Shtern, (Ryerson) |
| Site Visit: | May 28 and 29, 2018 |
| PRT Report: | June 27, 2018 |
| Program Response: | July 31, 2018 |
| YSGS Response: | Sept 11, 2018 |
| PPR Approved by Senate: | Nov 6, 2018 |
| 1 Year Follow Up Report: | Oct 17, 2019 |

As mandated by Ryerson Senate Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs[1], within one year of Senate approval of the PPR, a 1 Year Follow-Up Report is to be submitted to the Faculty Dean or Dean of Record and the Vice-Provost and Dean, YSGS, on the progress of the implementation plan and any further recommendations. This follow-up report will be also be reviewed by Programs and Planning Committee, YSGS Council, and finally Senate. The PPR Report to Senate may also include a date(s) for subsequent Follow-up Reports.

What follows are the PRT recommendations, the program responses, YSGS responses, and the implementation plan, including the 1 year follow-up status reports by the program.

The recommendations are divided into two broad categories: academic and administrative/financial and for simplicity, all of this information is presented in the form of tables.

[1] https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol126.pdf

# Implementation Plan

## Academic Recommendations

| Recommendation | Program Response | YSGS Response | Proposed Action<br>Responsibility to Lead Follow Up<br>Timeline for Addressing Recommendation | 1 Year Follow Up |
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| Continue to sharpen, and more effectively communicate, the program identity and focus on "modernity". | Agreement. LitMod will discuss ways to better define the meaning of "modernity," and the title of the program. Discussions will be held in both the GPC and the Department of English during the 2018-2019 academic year. | YSGS supports the program response. | Discuss ways to better define meaning of "modernity," and title of program. A stronger definition will be added to the website.<br><br>GPC and Department of English<br><br>2018-19; in particular, the issue will be raised at the first Graduate Council meeting on November 13, 2018. | At the Department of English retreat held on May 16, 2019, faculty in attendance unanimously agreed to change the name of our MA program from "Literatures of Modernity" to "English (MA)." The decision was based on the ongoing queries expressed by faculty and students about the broad meanings of the term "modernity," and whether such a focus was serving our program and attracting students as best as it could. In choosing the more general title of "English (MA)," faculty were guided by the fact that all other Ryerson graduate programs are titled accordingly, as in "Criminology and Social Justice (MA)," "Fashion (MA)," "Philosophy (MA)," and so on. While the vote at the May retreat was informal, the topic of the name change is the main item on the agenda at our first Grad Council of the 2019-2020 year, to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Having had the summer to reflect on the issue, we will have a final discussion before faculty, along with our two student Council Representatives, cast their formal votes. |

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| Stream-line the Foundations course to function more specifically as a gateway course to the field of modernity/modernities studies. | Ongoing. LitMod has been working to address issues related to the Foundations course and will continue to discuss further restructuring during the 2018-2019 academic year. The GPD will lead these discussions in the GPC. | YSGS supports the program response. YSGS notes that any changes to the course description would be considered a Category 1 minor program modification under Policy 127. YSGS will support the program as needed for any curriculum modifications, per Policy 127. | The GPD has already enhanced the focus on theorizing modernity in the fall 2018 Foundations course via lecture material and final term project on "modernity key words."<br><br>GPC and GPD<br><br>In winter 2019, the GPC will discuss the GPD's fall 2018 lectures and assignments related to strengthening the focus on modernity. | As indicated in the Proposed Action response, the GPD had already enhanced the focus on theorizing modernity in the fall 2018 Foundations course via lecture material and final term project on "modernity key words." In addition to continuing to enhance this lecture material, for the fall 2019 course the GPD re-introduced a conference-style paper centred on a topic related to modernity as a final assignment. Such a strategy not only enhances the thematic of modernity, but also contributes to the professionalizing of the students, for they will complete the course with a paper ready to be presented at a scholarly conference—conference preparation is a module of the course. Should the department vote to change the name of the program, Foundations will need to be revised accordingly, a task that will be undertaken by the GPD and GPC. |

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| Raise the minimum admission GPA to B+ in final two years of an undergraduate program. | To be considered based on the availability of guaranteed secure funding from the Administration. This issue will be discussed in the GPC and a recommendation will be developed. Pending the outcome of those discussions, the GPD will submit any potential admission GPA change to YSGS by Feb 2019 for implementation by Fall 2020 (if needed). | YSGS supports the program response to evaluate its admission criteria. YSGS notes that any changes to the admission requirements would be considered a Category 3 minor program modification under Policy 127. YSGS will support the program as needed for any changes to the requirements, per Policy 127.<br><br>YSGS also notes that centrally allocated graduate scholarship funding is derived from our Provincial government grant allocation that is based on eligible FTE enrolments. Making target at the program, Faculty, and university levels is the pathway to stability in funding.<br><br>It is not currently possible for YSGS to guarantee funding as it is subject to annual budgetary decisions that are outside its purview. Funding guarantees do not reconcile with the government's funding model or the annual budget process of the university. YSGS, however, continues to advocate for strong central support for graduate student funding.<br><br>YSGS also encourages the | GPC to discuss and Recommend. The GPC began discussing the issue at the first GPC meeting of the year (September 2018), and initial desires to see the average GPA increase to a B+ were tempered with concerns related to the lack of guaranteed funding to secure higher-caliber students.<br><br>GPC and GPC<br><br>Pending outcome of ongoing discussions, submit admission GPA change to YSGS by Feb 2019 for implementation by Fall 2020. | Given that YSGS is not in the position to guarantee increased funding to the program, the GPC decided not to proceed with increasing the average GPA to a B+. |

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| Improve TA training available to LitMod students; add a TA coordinator role. | Agreement. LitMod is committed to improving its TA training. In 2018-2019, the GPD will work with the Department Chair and the current TA coordinator to explore expanding the duties of the TA coordinator throughout the year. | YSGS supports the program response. | Expand duties of a dedicated TA coordinator throughout the year<br><br>GPD and Chair,<br>TA Workshop Coordinator<br><br>The issue is on the GPD's agenda for the October 23, 2018 GPC meeting, and discussions will be ongoing throughout 2018-2019. | Beginning in the fall 2018, the Department expanded the duties of dedicated TA coordinators. Specifically, our program hires a team of TAs for our two gateway courses, ENG 110 (fall) and ENG 208 (winter). The faculty members teaching the respective courses (typically two each term) serve as the designated coordinators of their TAs—approximately eight in the fall, six in the winter. In this capacity, the faculty meet with their TAs for one hour each week to go over tutorial preparation, grading assignments, and any course business as it arises. Moreover, the TA coordinators now evaluate each of their TAs by visiting their classes once per semester and providing personal and written feedback on their performance in the classroom and their engagement with students. These duties enhance the three-hour required TA training session led by the TA coordinators held at our annual Orientation in August, and repeated at the start of the winter term. |

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| Expand instruction in the teaching of writing either through enhanced TA training or in a dedicated course/module. | Agreement. LitMod will work to increase workshops offered through Learning and Teaching Office (LTO), and discuss options for a "teaching writing" module/course. This will be discussed in the program's GPC and the GPD will liaise with the Department Chair and representatives from the LTO, Career Centre, and YSGS. | YSGS supports the program response. An Associate Dean from YSGS, either for Students or Programs, will participate in any consultations as needed. | Increase workshops offered through Learning and Teaching Office (LTO), and discuss options for "teaching writing" modules/course<br><br>GPC, GPD, Department Chair, LTO, Career Centre, YSGS.<br><br>The issue is on the GPD's agenda for the October 23, 2018 GPC meeting, and discussions will be ongoing throughout 2018-2019. | Beginning in fall 2018, and ongoing, the Department has increased its engagement with the Learning and Teaching Office (LTO). For instance, the GPD invited Curtis Maloley, Educational Developer with the LTO, to attend our Orientation on August 25, 2019. Curtis introduced the students to the diverse Teaching Assistant and Graduate Assistant Programs offered by the LTO, including a TA/GA Orientation, a Workshop Series, the Graduate Teaching Development Program, and the TA/GA Awards Program (https://www.ryerson.ca/learning-teaching/ta-ga/). Our students are regularly encouraged to attend these training programs. Over the past year, the GPC discussed the creation of a dedicated course/module on the topic of "teaching writing." However, given that we are a literature (and not a professional writing) program; given that we are a one-year MA program with limited course time in the fall and winter; and given the plethora of TA training options available through the LTO, the GPC decided not to proceed with a "teaching writing" offering. |

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| Provide and post brief course descriptions and/or draft syllabi for both Fall and Winter courses at the time of Fall enrollment for better informed course choices. | Agreement. LitMod will implement this recommendation beginning in the Fall 2018 semester. | YSGS supports the program response. | Implementation beginning Fall 2018<br><br>GPD and GPA<br><br>2018-19 | The program implemented this recommendation beginning fall 2018. |
| Consider in hiring plans the addition of a specialist in early literatures with a focus on the transition from medieval to renaissance. | To be considered. The GPD will discuss this recommendation with the Department Chair and the DHC during the 2018-2019 academic year. | YSGS supports the program response. YSGS further notes that any appointments need to be considered in the context of departmental- and faculty-level planning. The appointment of new faculty is outside of the purview of YSGS. YSGS also urges the program to consult with the Dean of Arts on this recommendation. | Discussion with Department Chair and DHC regarding new areas of hire<br><br>GPD, Chair, and DHC<br><br>2018-19 | Based on pressing departmental needs driven by student interest and faculty departures, the DHC made hires in 2018-2019 in the areas of Victorian Transnationalism and Queer and Gender Studies. The DHC will be interviewing for a position in Indigenous Studies over the 2019-2020 year. |

Administrative and Financial Recommendations

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| Restructure funding and awards information (internal and external) on the department website for prospective students. | Agreement. LitMod will undertake a website overhaul, including funding and awards, during the 2018-2019 academic year. This will be discussed in the GPC and lead by the Department Website Committee. | YSGS supports the program response. | Website overhaul including funding and awards<br><br>GPC and Department Website Committee<br><br>2018-19 | The Department is in the final stages of migrating content to a new website, to be completed fall 2019. The new site includes a more dedicated section to all facets of the MA program. |
| Create a sustainability plan that prepares for offering the program – including funding and experiential learning – in the event that there are gaps or departures in faculty SSHRC projects. | Agreement. The GPD will discuss this issue with the Department Chair, and engage in dialogue with the Offices of the Dean of Arts and YSGS. This will be completed during the 2018-2019 academic year. | YSGS supports the program response. The Associate Dean, Programs in YSGS will participate in any discussions with LitMod and/or the Faculty of Arts on this issue if needed. | GPD will discuss with Department Chair, and in dialogue with the Offices of the Dean of Arts and YSGS<br><br>GPD and Department Chair, YSGS and Dean of Arts<br><br>2018-19; the GPD and Department Chair will discuss the issue fall 2018; and consult with the Dean of Arts/YSGS by winter 2019. | The Chair of the Department has confirmed that discretionary funds, available through our BIP, can by used to cover any unexpected shortfalls in funding. |

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| Update the program's outcomes to more explicitly address its existing commitment to urban engagement (i.e., the program's engagement with its urban locale outside the university through various partnerships with presses, publications, and advocacy organizations is commendable but needs to be better recognized in its outcomes). | Agreement. This will be implemented by the GPC for the Fall 2018 semester. | YSGS supports the program response. YSGS encourages LitMod to consult with the Curriculum Development Consultants in the Office of the Vice Provost Academic if any updates to the program's learning outcomes are made. | Implementation for Fall 2018<br><br>GPC<br><br>Fall 2018 | Additional reference to urban engagement was added to the PPR on September 24, 2018. |