

THE DOCUMENT

THE FEBRUARY OR “ARE WE THERE YET?” EDITION

First of all, we are pleased to bring you this February edition of The Document. We hope you enjoy this eclectic mix of information, humour, and scandal (Rob Ford makes an appearance!).

We hope that February is finding you well. Words cannot express how happy we are that January is over. What a horribly cold and barren month. February is turning out to have lovely weather and we are optimistic about March. Because February seems like such a massive rush of information all at once, we themed our Document edition to be something like that!

All of this small chat feels like flirting, and while we would like to be friends with all of you, we are actually in a really serious relationship with our books right now. It's not you, it's just that Foucault is so alluring with his bio-politics and paradigms (we read Foucault for class recently, can you tell?). ENJOY!

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO WRITE COMPS

COMPS SEASON IS COMING! April/Comps Month is approaching. The thought of comps can be scary and unsettling. We have decided to get some advice from our post-comps colleagues and Rob Ford in order to soothe the spirits of those writing soon.

From Mathieu Brule:

Comps are way more intimidating than they need to be. We build them up to be beasts when in fact they are little more than a small hill that we need to climb on our way to becoming so over-educated that nobody in the world but other scholars will be able to relate to us. The Comps beast barks like a hell hound, but bites like a toothless bunny. There's no need to panic. Do the work and you'll be fine. How and where you do that is up to you. Have a decent knowledge of the material, put together a nice course, have a look at exams from previous years and you'll be well on your way to never, ever having to read so many books about obscure topics that are only marginally related to your own interests. Good luck!

From Abril Liberatori:

I probably have the same advice everyone else does: don't listen to other people's advice. In my cohort, everyone had very different ways of working. Some people were able to breeze through books and get a whole pile done in one day. Others struggled to do one book a day. Neither way is inherently correct. You have to dole out your time the way that works best for your style of learning. Personally, I found it more efficient to finish the reading early, and spend lots of time on sample essay answers. It helped me pull away from the specifics and start looking at the bigger trends. I also spent time chatting with friends in casual language about what I knew. I figured if I couldn't make my arguments in a relaxed setting with people who knew nothing but were interested, then they weren't polished enough. I found doing that also made it very clear

where the 'holes' in my studying were. My advice: take time off if you need it, and don't if you don't. Meet with your supervisor regularly, or go into hiding. Find a routine that makes you feel good. Do what makes you feel comfortable, prepared, and confident (if only on the surface). Don't hesitate to seek advice, or a sympathetic ear. Best of luck!

From the Mayor, Rob Ford:

1. On how to deal with tough questions: During the oral examination, if you are asked a question you don't know, look your examiner dead in the eye and say "I have more than enough to eat at home, thank you."
2. Bring common sense into your answers: When questioned about urbanization, just remember "roads are built for buses, cars, and trucks. Not for people on bikes." Common sense is more than enough to get you through that pesky Q&A session
3. On Studying: I like to study "in one of my drunken stupors, probably approximately a year ago."
4. How to deal with a question about a film central to one of the readings: "As for a video, I cannot comment on a video that I have never seen or does not exist."
5. How to answer a question about gender: "Women love money. You give them a couple thousand bucks and they're happy."
6. What to say when you are out and about in pajamas buying brain food/ice cream and you run into someone outside of academia: "Please judge me on my record, not my personal life."
7. How to celebrate finishing your comps: "If you're going to have a couple drinks you stay home, and that's it. You don't make a public spectacle of yourself."
8. On giving up: Do you want to quit before Rob Ford?

A big thank you to all of our contributors! And thank you, Rob Ford, for being a constant source of amusement and frustration/rage.

Speaking of Comps, The Document editors would like to take this moment to congratulate Lydia Wytenbroek, Noa Yaari, Aaron Miedema, and Mathieu Arsenault on passing their comprehensive examinations! Best of luck to all those who are writing in April!

GHSA York University

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FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
January 16,
2014

GHSA STATEMENT ON STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Grad Student Historians Support Action Taken by York's Sociology Department

Toronto, ON - January 16, 2014– The Graduate History Students Association (GHSA) at York University passed a motion at their general meeting today expressing support for Professor J. Paul Grayson and the Sociology Department in the recent controversy surrounding student accommodation.

In its resolution, the historians state that they “believe that the recent decision on student accommodation taken by the Dean of Arts, the Centre for Human Rights, and the Provost contributes to the systemic oppression of women.” Last term, members of the York University administration granted an accommodation request to a student who argued that he could not participate in a group assignment for his online sociology course because it meant that he would have to be in the company of women;

the student claimed that this violates his religious beliefs. The administration overruled Professor Grayson’s decision to not grant the request, in spite of the fact that the student and Professor Grayson had peacefully settled the matter to the student’s satisfaction.

In the wake of this controversy, the Sociology department declared that they will not grant any request for accommodation if it comes at the expense of marginalizing other students. In their resolution today, the GHSA endorsed “the decision taken by the Sociology Department to not grant student accommodation if such an accommodation contributes to the marginalization of other students, faculty, staff or TA’s.” Further, the history grad students are encouraging the History Department to “consider this issue and develop a policy similar to the Sociology Department.”

See the full text of the GHSA resolution below.

If you would like more information about this resolution, please contact Tom Hooper at thooper@yorku.ca. For more information about the GHSA, please contact co-Presidents Joanna Pearce (jlp@yorku.ca) & Abril Liberatori (abrilml@yorku.ca)

GHSA Resolution on Student Accommodation – Motion Sponsor: Tom Hooper, PhD Candidate

January 16, 2014

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PART 1:

We, the graduate history students at York University,

-are committed to a system of reasonable accommodation to ensure student success in the face of systemic barriers of oppression;

-believe that the recent decision on student accommodation taken by the Dean of Arts, the Centre for Human Rights, and the Provost contributes to the systemic oppression of women;

-as TA's and sessional instructors, refuse to grant accommodation that contributes to systemic oppression or the marginalization of other students;

-resolve that: the Graduate Student History Association (GHSa) endorse the decision taken by the Sociology Department to not grant student accommodation if such an accommodation contributes to the marginalization of other students, faculty, staff or TA's.

PART 2:

Further, we,

-declare this position publicly, and;

-suggest that the History Department, through our GHSa representatives, consider this issue and develop a policy similar to the Sociology Department.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HINTS AND TRICKS

YorkU How To: A Document Guide to online resources at York University
February: How to find your employee ID

BY JOANNA PEARCE

Hello All,

In order to complete your WHIMIS and Workplace Violence Prevention training online, access your AODA mandatory training, and get some cool downloads that are only available to employees of the university, you need an awesome Employee Passport York login. This is not just your student login, but an actual employee account that you need to set up separately. Here is how you need to get your Employee ID

1) send a message to accounts@yorku.ca from your York email address to request an Employee

ID. The request must include your full name and your employee number. This is on your paystub.

2) The Helpdesk will send you a message with your Passport York username and a temporary password, which you must change the first time you log in to Passport York.

(See the following link for further details on what your employee Passport York account is used for <http://computing.yorku.ca/faculty-staff/passwords-passport-york-access/passport-york/>.)"

There is some plan in the works to make this process less onerous, but that's not going to be happening any time in the near future.

I hope this is helpful!

Joanna

INTERVIEW WITH KAREN

And now, here is an interview with arguably one of the most important people in the department. Gatekeeper of all the information pertaining to the graduate program, Karen is far more approachable than St. Peter is, and far more open to questions. So, here is a short, ten question interview with the woman who makes all of our lives easier in the department!

DOCUMENT: A penguin walks through your office door right now wearing a sombrero. What does he say, and why is he here?

KAREN DANCY: Does this hat make my feet look big?

D: What are you looking forward to most for the rest of the school year?

KD: Better weather and shorter food lines once classes end. And being able to get out of the parking lot a lot faster.

D: Karen, what is the secret to your amazingness?

KD: Coffee?

D: In a related question, how do you deal with graduate students all day?

KD: You all make it fun, my day flies by.

D: What is a day in the life of Karen like?

KD: You don't want to know, it's not very glamorous.. Getting up at 5am, making lunches for my kids, getting them ready for school. They can't wait until I leave in the morning, so they can play their video games once I'm gone.

D: How many cows are in Canada?

KD: 10,101

D: Do you have a favourite spot on campus to eat?

KD: I'm a creature of habit and rarely bring my lunch. But I would say I eat at my desk most often.

D: If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you choose to be you and why?

KD: For die hard Corrie fans, the girl who played Molly. We look alike except I have green eyes and hers are blue so she'll have to wear contacts.

D: What is your favourite thing to do outside of York?

KD: Spending time with my family and my rescue dog.

D: Last, but not least, Twitter advice: In 140 Characters (or less), what is the most useful piece of advice you have to give to graduate students.

KD: History is the essence of life.

INTERNET FUNNIES

This section is entirely stolen from the internet. It is meant to be a section where you can rest your weary eyes, lay your heavy heart, and find the silver lining in life again. The silver lining being the gift of humour. Without further adieu, here are some of the funniest jokes and truest lists about being a grad student on the internet.

Top Five Lies Told by Teaching Assistants:

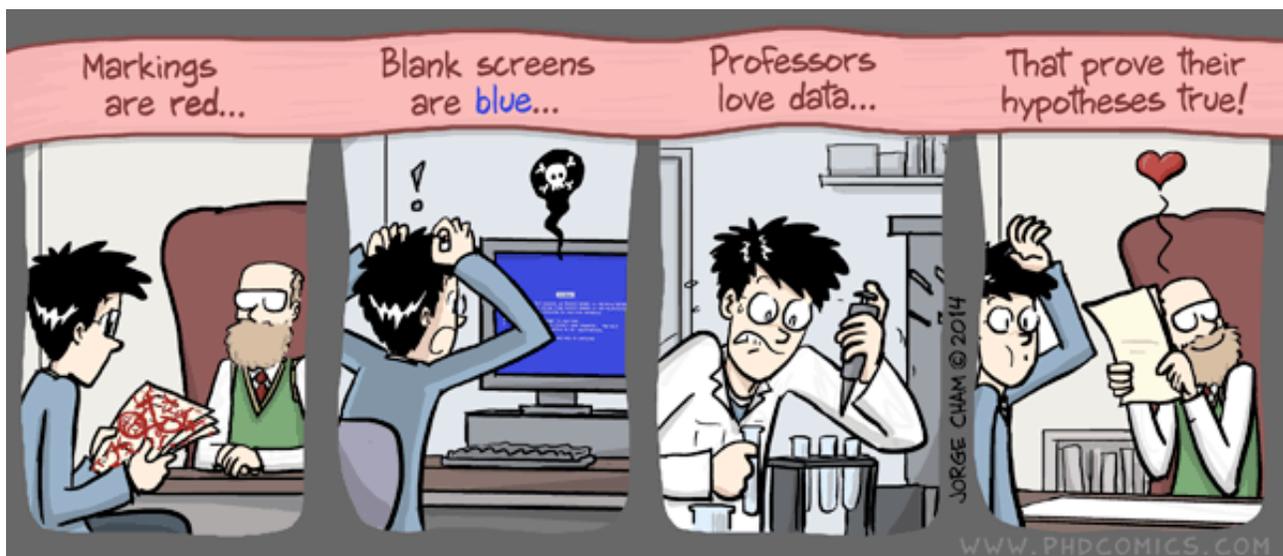
5. I'm not going to grant any extensions.
4. Call me any time. I'm always available.
3. It doesn't matter what I think; write what you believe.
2. Think of the midterm as a diagnostic tool.
1. My other section is much better prepared than you guys.

Student Bloopers

This is a compilation of actual (ALLEGED) student bloopers collected by teachers. Grad students who TA will probably not be surprised by any of them.

1. Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.
2. The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked, "Am I my brother's son?"
3. Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.
4. Solomom had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.

5. The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.
6. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.
7. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.
8. In the Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java.
9. Eventually, the Romans conquered the Greeks. History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long.
10. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out: "Tee hee, Brutus."



You know you're a grad student when...

- You have difficulty reading anything that doesn't have footnotes.
- You understand jokes about Foucault.
- The concept of free time scares you.
- You consider caffeine to be a major food group.
- You've ever brought books with you on vacation and actually studied.
- You appreciate the fact that you get to choose *which* twenty hours out of the day you have to work.
- You still feel guilty about giving students low grades (you'll get over it).
- You've ever worn out a library card.
- You find taking notes in a park relaxing.
- You find yourself citing sources in conversation.
- you are startled to meet people who neither need nor want to read.
- You have ever brought a scholarly article to a bar.
- Everything reminds you of something in your discipline.
- You have ever discussed academic matters at a sporting event.
- There is a microfilm reader in the library that you consider "yours."

- You actually have a preference between microfilm and microfiche.
 - Professors don't really care when you turn in work any more.
 - You find the bibliographies of books more interesting than the actual text.
 - You have given up trying to keep your books organized and are now just trying to keep them all in the same general area.
 - You have accepted guilt as an inherent feature of relaxation.
 - You find yourself explaining to children that you are in "20th grade".
 - You start referring to stories like "Snow White et al."
 - You often wonder how long you can live on pasta without getting scurvy.
 - You look forward to taking some time off to do laundry.
 - You have a favourite flavour of instant noodle.
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YU REVIEW (with commentary by Erica McCloskey)

As someone who has spent a fair bit of time on campus this year, I know that it is almost impossible to avoid eating on campus. "But where to eat?" is a question I ask myself each time before parting with my money in order to gain sustenance (I miss the feudal days—I'm sure are many pre-twentieth century historians who can tell me what is wrong with that statement). In order to decide where to eat on campus, and hopefully help out some of you, I have collected reviews from yelp. Knowledge is power.

Falafel Hut Village

York Lanes

\$

Not everybody loves this York University staple. According to D.M. of Toronto, "don't let the renovations fool you - this place is a TOTAL waste of time and money. I'd rate it 0/5 stars if possible!" This is a place you will either love or hate, depending on what your bank account looks like. As Meena from Toronto says, "people need to quit freaking out. It's York U. Not the classiest place in the world, just your average grimy underfunded University. I enjoy this place (in relative York U terms)." The Tuesday special is the best; you can get a can of pop and falafel in a pita for under 4 dollars.

Shopsy's Sports Grill

York Lanes

\$\$

This year Shopsy's Sports Grill has been the new kid York Lanes looking to make a name for itself. It got off to a troubled start. Yan C of Toronto did not have a great experience, saying, "Avoid AVOID AVOID. We went to Pad Thai Express instead. Good food, fast, quick.

Shopsy's you are blacklisted and we complained to the head office as well." The struggling youngster has bounced back in recent days with Martin A. boasting, "food was ok. Nothing special. Reuben sandwich was tasty but no better than any other deli. I have had better."

Luckily, for Shopsy's, they have lots of TVs, and it's an okay place to catch a basketball/hockey game.

Indian Flavour Restaurant

York Lanes

\$

Karen F. of Toronto raves, “fresh food. Great service from the owner. Fantastic quantities. Best choice for healthy food at York lanes. The wraps are amazing. They are so tasty and filling.

Mango lassi is awesome.” I am inclined to agree. The food is decently priced, very filling, and quite tasty. If you are looking to get the most bang for your buck, I suggest getting one of their many wraps. In the interest of taking all opinions into account, Red S. of North York says, “if you want ‘Indian Food’ or the poor cardboard like simulacrum of it that is offered in this establishment and you are at York, well this is your only option.” I completely disagree with this position. Red S. seems like the worst kind of person and did not include a picture for their profile.

Cucinetta

York Lanes

\$\$

New to York Lanes, Cucinetta is looking to fill the void in the Italian market left by Mangia Mangia. Kris P. of Mississauga says, “the first thing I noticed was that the menu items were quite pricy. I've been there twice, and have paid \$8 for a pretty mediocre sandwich and \$7 for one slice of pizza. The slice of pizza was very good.” Agreeing with Kris about the price, Britany S. adds, “I've only tried the smoke salmon salad and vegetarian pizza (those are not the exact names). My salad tasted good, but I thought it was a bit overpriced for the size. If buy it again because I loved smoke salmon and not a lot of places sell it on campus.” I agree with both of these yelpers. I have tried the pizza; it was okay.

Berries and Bloom

York Lanes

\$

The general consensus around Berries and Bloom is that the food is very good/healthy and the service is very mediocre/unsmiley. Emily T. of Toronto boasts, “it is firstly, the healthiest choice amongst the other restaurants and from what I've seen and experienced, a popular choices amongst the students.” Radhika G. echoes this by saying, “this is my go-to spot on campus to grab a healthy, wholesome meal.” However she goes on to state, “minus one star because the staff can't be bothered to look (much less smile) at you, and because the quality of the smoothies has gone way down, while the price has gone up. Boourns!” Boourns indeed, Radhika.

Qoola

York Lanes

\$ - Price by Weight, so it's up to you

Britany S. says, “I can't deny that they have a good product.” Basilio says, “now this is what yogurt is all about. Natural, no powder ingredients, 100million-1.2billion live active cultures per gram!!! And all-Canadian! There was a line up when I visited the location but it was worth the wait.” I have a hard time believing that's not the owner. Di H. says, “York University now has a real froyo place! Woohoo.” Radhika G. says, “it's about time York got a good fro-yo place! (Sorry, Yogen Fruz... You aren't it.) This place has the same vibe as a Menchie's or Yogurty'.” Verdict: People seem to like this place. I have not been.

Sakura Japanese Restaurant

York Lanes

\$\$

Abbas N. says, "I've been here sooo many times, and everytime I kinda am underwhelmed, but for what it's worth, it does do a great job being an on-campus dining option for York students." I think this review really encapsulates what Sakura is all about. It is pretty alright. I like their teriyaki chicken. (A brief editorial addition: One of the editors absolutely adores this place for their chicken noodle soup, and highly, highly recommends it. And the combo is less than \$10!)

Tune in for the next installment when I regurgitate reviews for different restaurants on campus!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND BEYOND

Looking to stay connected with the department, fellow historians, and fellow graduate students? Look no further! We have listed all upcoming events for your viewing pleasure. Anything we missed is either in your email or will be sent to your email shortly.

Thursday, February 20th - Sunday, February 23

New Frontiers

- For more information please visit <http://yorknewfrontiers.wordpress.com/>

Monday, February 24 to Wednesday, February 26

GHSA Book Sale

History Department Common Room

- Please consider volunteering to help work the sale or donate baked goods for the bake sale component.

Wednesday, February 26, 2: 30-3: 30

Bridging Parallel Rows: Fisheries Governance at Lake Nipissing and the Two-Row

Wampum as Research Methodology

764 Kaneff Tower

Wednesday, February 26-Thursday, February 27

Going to War - How Torontonians experienced World War I

Online

- This event will be an online examination of online primary sources and blogging to talk about Torontonians' experiences in the war. Historical photographs now housed at the City of Toronto Archives will be explored.

Wednesday, March 5, 2: 30-3: 30

Crossing the Border to Work in the 'Other' Canadian Shield during the Long Nineteenth Century (1776-1920)

764 Kaneff Tower

Thursday, March 6, 12: 30-2:00
GHSA Meeting
History Department Common Room

Monday, March 10, 10:00-11:30
Communicating Your Research: Journal Publications
280N York Lanes

Monday, March 10, 12: 30-3: 30
CUPE 3903 March *Annual General Meeting*
Senate Chambers (9th Floor) North Ross Building

Thursday, March 13, 12-30-2: 30
Oral Histories: A Discussion with Carolyn Podruchny, Janice Kim, Aitana Guia
History Department Common Room

Mid-April (TBA)
GHSA End-of-Term Party
Location TBA

CONCLUSION

Dearest Graduate Students,

We hope that the winter doldrums are all cured by the short, yet important, spring break that we just went through. May you have a successful, and hopefully pleasant, second term, and that everything is completed with as little stress as possible!

Brace yourselves – Marking is coming!

The Document Editors: Erica McCloskey,
David Leonard, Brooke Sales-Lee, and Barry
Torch

BRACE YOURSELVES

**END OF TERM IS
COMING**



memegenerator.net