



WELCOME TO
CANADA'S
PREMIER
UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE



Welcome to StFX

- We are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi'kmaq and Maliseet peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Maliseet title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



Faculty of Arts

- **About the People in the Faculty of Arts**
 - Award winning teachers and support staff who care for your well-being and your academic and personal growth. Our job is to provide you with an exceptional academic experience inside and outside of the classroom.
 - We have been doing this since 1853



THIS IS A VERY DIFFERENT YEAR

We have been working non-stop since March to be ready for tomorrow and we are so glad you are here.



University Academic Structure

Academic Vice President and Provost (AVP&P)



Deans of Faculties (there are 4 at StFX)



**Chairs and Coordinators of Departments/Programs
Grouped according to Faculty**



Faculty (professors, lab instructors)



Chairs and Coordinators of Depts/Programs

Anthropology: Dr. Susan Vincent
Aquatic Res: Dr. David Garbary
Art: Dr. Sharon Gregory
Catholic Studies: Dr. Joseph Houry
Celtic Studies: Dr. Michael Linkletter
Classical Studies: Dr. Steve Baldner
Climate & Environ: Dr. Patrick Withey
Development St: Dr. Jonathan Langdon
Economics: Dr. Greg Tkacz
English: Dr. Jason Potts
History: Dr. Peter McInnis

Modern Languages: Dr. Wojciech Tokarz
Music: Mr. Kevin Brunkhorst
Philosophy: Dr. Will Sweet
Political Science: Dr. Youngwon Cho
Psychology: Dr. Peter McCormick
Public Policy & Governance: Dr. Jim Bickerton
Religious Studies: Dr. Robert Kennedy
Sociology: Dr. Norine Verberg
Women's & Gender Studies: Dr. Rachel Hurst

COLLOQUIA COORDINATORS:

HUMANITIES: Dr. Steve Baldner

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Dr. Nancy Forestell



Office of the Dean of Arts

- **About the Office:** (all information is available on the Website)
- **WHO WE ARE:**
 - Dean of Arts: Dr. Karen Brebner: 902 867-2165 kbrebner@stfx.ca
 - Assistant to the Dean of Arts : Navneet Kaur: 902 867-2165 nkaur@stfx.ca
- **WHERE WE ARE: Nicholson Tower 305**
- **You are always welcome to come by my office at any time to look for assistance.** If you would like to make an appointment to speak to me, please contact (email, phone or in person) Navneet



Office of the Dean of Arts

WHAT WE DO:

- Support all academic departments and programs in the Faculty of Arts.
- Support all people: faculty and staff.
- **Support all students in their academic endeavours.**
- Because you are students in the Faculty of Arts, you always come to me to discuss issues you are having, even if you are having issues in a Science or Business class.



Office of the Dean of Arts

WHAT WE DO:

- Deans make the big decisions when it comes to your academic issues
- Come to me:
 - if you are going to be away from classes for any reason
 - if you are having issues with your classes
 - for issues related to your exams
 - if you want to take courses at another university (you MUST get permission to do this)
 - if you don't know where else to go for help



Typical Course Patterns and Choices

- Choices:
 - You have already registered in your first term courses. Hopefully you have chosen something you like AND something that is new to you.
 - Arts students can take both Arts (Social Sciences and the Humanities) and Science courses
 - **Broaden your education.**
 - For example, Anthropology or Mi 'kmaq language is something that you may not have had in High-School
 - **Information about registering for Term 2 courses will come out in October and Registration will take place in November**



Typical Course Patterns and Choices

- Choices:

- If, after your first week, you are sure you are not in the right classes, **you can change your courses up until Tuesday September 22**
- **If, at any time, you want to drop a course, you must do so online through your MesAmis account.** You can't just stop going, or tell your professor that you are dropping their course. And there are deadlines each term after which you cannot drop a course without permission from the Dean (**November 13 for first term courses**).
- When you are dropping a course through MesAmis make sure that you hit the **SUBMIT** button before you log out, and then **check your transcript to make sure that your course is no longer listed**. If you want to add a new course, you must drop something else first, if you are registered in a full course load



Typical Course Patterns and Choices

- Program Requirements
 - At the end of this year you will be asked to **declare a Major** (36 credits in the same subject): **the deadline to do so is in March**
 - Think about possible **Minors** (24 credits in the same subject)
 - You will need to complete **Pairs** too (12 credits in one subject)
 - Look ahead to see what courses are required in different programs
 - Make an appointment with an academic advisor to fill out a declaration form when you are declaring your Major
 - **This term all appointments with the Academic Advisors are taking place virtually (phone, email, Teams/Zoom)**



Typical Course Patterns and Choices

- Program Requirements

- How do you know if you are choosing courses that fit with your program requirements? You fill out a **DECLARATION FORM**.
- You can find declaration forms on the Dean of Arts' webpage under **Student Resources**
- <http://www2.mystfx.ca/dean-of-arts/student-resources>
- Once you decide what program you want to do, and choose your courses, you must get the Chair of your department to sign your declaration form, and then the Dean will sign it.
- **NOTE: YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR MAJOR AND YOUR PROGRAM!** But you need to declare something by the end of this year. Our Academic Advisors can help you do all of these things.



What to do if you have Academic Questions

- **Read the Academic Calendar** (located on Registrar's office website or on drop down menu on MyStFX). The answers to many of your questions are contained in the Calendar. **YOU NEED TO READ THE CALENDAR SO THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE.**
- **Department/Program Administrative Assistants, Department Chairs and Program Coordinators** are excellent resources for questions about programs. You can find out their names and where their offices are by going to the Department/Program websites.
- **The Academic Advisors are the real experts though!**



What to do if you have Academic Questions

- **Steps for Academic Advising**

- **We have five amazing advisors:** Suzanne Russell, Carol Bray, Kara Deon, Martin Capstick and Tyson Ball
- Usually they are found on the 3rd floor of Nicholson Tower down the hall from my office, and in the Schwartz building, **but for the first term of this year at least, they are working from home.** Watch for information about whether they are back in their offices next term.
- **To make an appointment for Academic Advising:** www.stfx.mywconline.com (you can find a link on the Dean's website)



Other people you can turn to for help:

- Student Success Centre
- Encountering problems with succeeding in your courses?
 - **Contact the Student Success Centre**
 - Help with writing, study skills, tutoring
- Director: Mark Leeming
 - **Normally found in the library on the main floor, to the right of the staircase, for the first term at least, the Academic Skills Instructors are working remotely. You can make appointments using their online booking system:**



Other people you can turn to for help:

- **Diversity Engagement Centre** Located in Bloomfield (AKA: the Student Union Bldg, or the SUB)
 - Indigenous Students— Terena Francis tfrancis@stfx.ca
 - Knowledge-Keeper on Campus – Kerry Prosper kprosper@stfx.ca
 - Black Student Advisor (interim)—Summer-Joy Upshaw x2014gpu@stfx.ca
 - International Students— Donald Rasmussen drasmuss@stfx.ca
 - Gender and Sexual Diversity Advisor – Claydon Goering cgoering@stfx.ca
 - Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Advocate: Heather Blackburn hblackbu@stfx.ca (Health and Counselling in SUB)



Other people you can turn to for help:

- **Counsellors**

- The transition to University can be challenging. The StFX Health and Counselling Centre is here to support you. Whether a problem is big or small, a personal challenge or a career decision, our counsellors can help. Counselling at StFX is a popular resource. Many students take advantage of the support and guidance that the counselors offer.
- **To book an appointment call 867-2263.**

- **Health Center**

- **Located in Bloomfield (3rd floor around the corner from the main desk)**



The 2020-21 Academic Calendar

- The academic calendar contains the rules which govern your history at StFX. You are bound by the rules in the Calendar for the year that you enter StFX.
- It is an evolving document
- Describes the different academic programs
- University Academic Regulations (Section 3)
- Faculty of Arts Regulations (Section 4)
- Academic Integrity Policy (Section 3.8)
- Academic Penalties (Section 3.11)



The 2020-21 Academic Calendar

- **Read the Academic Calendar—and bookmark it on your computer! You can find it online at mystfx.ca. Your responsibilities as a student are contained in the Calendar**



Important Dates! Listed in the Calendar

- Calendar of events (page V): **IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR ARE LISTED***
- Last date to change first term or full-year courses is **Tuesday September 22nd**
- Last date to drop first term 3-credit courses is **Friday, November 13**

***DATES FOR THE SECOND TERM THAT ARE CURRENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE START DATE OF TERM 2. WE HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED WHEN CLASSES WILL RESUME IN JANUARY, SO YOU WILL HAVE TO CHECK BACK LATER IN THE TERM TO VERIFY IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE WINTER TERM**



MAKE SURE YOU TAKE NOTE!

- **The December exam schedule will be made available in October**
- **TELL YOUR PARENTS, YOUR LOVED ONES, OR ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGMENTS DURING THE EXAM PERIODS NOT TO BOOK ANY FLIGHTS FOR YOU UNTIL YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR LAST EXAM IS. WE WILL NOT HONOUR REQUESTS TO CHANGE EXAM DATES SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE A FLIGHT HOME, OR A TRIP PLANNED.**



Set yourself up for a good year

- Read the Academic Calendar
- Read your EMAILS! You MUST monitor your StFX email account. **This is how most of the important communications about EVERYTHING are provided to students.**
- If information is sent to you via email and you miss deadlines or violate policies because you didn't read that information, that is on you!
- **READING YOUR EMAIL WILL BE CRITICAL THIS YEAR. CHECK IT DAILY**



Set yourself up for a good year

- **Go to your classes (and try to take some time today to go find your classrooms for tomorrow morning!)**
- If you cannot get to your class you are still responsible for knowing what material was delivered in that class. You need to find someone (a classmate, your professor) who will be able to give you that material.
- If you miss more than a class here or there you need to let **ME** know why. Your professors are asked to report students who are missing classes to me, and if they do, then **you and I are going to have a conversation about why you aren't going to your classes.**



Set yourself up for a good year

- Before classes start tomorrow look at your schedule! If you are taking online courses make sure you know how much time you have between your face to face classes and your online classes.
- If you only have 10 minutes between the end of a face to face class and the start on an online class then **you need to know where you can find a place to sit to be “in” your online course when it starts.**
- There are rooms and quiet spaces in the **library**, in the **Schwartz building**, and in **most other buildings** where you will be able to sit to take part in your online classes if you don't have time to make it back to your residence room or apartment/house between classes.



Set yourself up for a good year

- ON YOUR FIRST DAY OF CLASSES:
- You will receive course outlines (syllabi) with important dates for assignments that are due throughout the course. Pay attention to these dates! Know what is expected of you and when you are expected to complete your work.
- Your courses will have a Moodle Page associated with them. Your professors will use Moodle differently, so make sure you know, for each class, what is being posted on Moodle (or possibly on other LMS)
- Textbooks – not a bad idea to go to the Campus Store after first class (used texts are around, but be aware that some are old editions). We also have a textbook buyback program. Check to see if your course uses one of these books! **Many texts this year are e-texts which will be a new thing for a lot of us**



Your Classes

- Go to all lectures—and participate. Ask questions!
- Be prepared for your classes
- Access your course’s Moodle page
- Read your Course syllabi—they are like a contract between your professor and yourself
- Know when your assignments are due
- Do your assigned readings and homework and **make sure you understand what your professors are asking you to do before you hand in your assignments. Don’t just hope you get it right!**
- Visit your Instructor **before** a problem arises: your professors are required to be available for help. They must all hold **office hours** when they will be available each week to speak with you. **This term all office hours are VIRTUAL**



Set yourself up for a good year

- **Budget your time: Being a University student is like having a full time job**
- **If you treat it like a full time job you will have lots of time to fit everything you want/need to do into your days and weeks**



Typical Weekly Time Commitments



- **In Faculty of Arts first year courses:**
- 15 hours of lectures
- 30 hours study/lecture preparation
- **TOTAL: 45 hours!** (this can be more if you are taking Science courses with labs, or are in the BASc program)



Typical Weekly Time Commitments



- 15 hours of lectures
- 30 hours study/lecture preparation
- TOTAL: 45 hours!
- **about 120 hours/week “free” wakeful time**
- YOU CAN AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET 7-8 hours of sleep a night if you plan your days properly. **SLEEPING AT NIGHT IS IMPORTANT** (and getting up in time for your classes is easier if you are sleeping at night). **Naps (if they are short) are your friends!**



Set yourself up for a good year

- **Become involved in University Life**



Examples of University Life



- Music, Film and Plays
- Student societies
- Students' Union activities
- Sports (Rec. and Varsity)
- Recreation and outdoor activities
- Debating
- Service Learning/volunteering
- Visiting speakers (virtual)
- Socials.....



Set yourself up for a good year

- **Locate and use University Services**



University Services



- Centre for Accessible Learning (Tramble Rooms)
- Library: Do the tour/orientation
- Student Success Centre
- Scholarships & Bursaries
- Chaplaincy (for all spiritual needs)
- Health and Counselling
- Student Career and Co-op Centre
- Information Technology Services (ITS)
- Saputo Centre, Keating Centre
- International Exchange
- And much more



Set yourself up for a good year

- Know when you need help, and ask for it
- **IF YOU SEE SOMEONE ELSE WHO NEEDS HELP, BE THE ONE TO HELP THEM**



Further advice

- BE RESPECTFUL
- This year has already been hard enough for everyone. Being a first year university student is hard. Don't make it harder than it needs to be, for yourself, or for anyone else.
- What happens on this campus is YOUR responsibility as much as anyone else's, and how we get through this term depends on YOU.
- This year other people's lives may literally depend on the decisions that YOU make.



Further advice

- BE RESPECTFUL
 - Make your own decisions and make good ones
 - Live your own life
 - Forward your own education and career
 - Know when you are falling short
 - Seek advice from the pros
 - Change habits as necessary
 - Be nice...twice!
-
- AND OF COURSE: WEAR YOUR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, AND BE PHYSICALLY DISTANT



Further advice

- This university is full of people who can help you with any problem that you encounter while you are here. If you don't know who to turn to, no matter what the problem is, you can always come to **see me** for help.
- **THIRD FLOOR NICHOLSON TOWER**



Questions

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