

MENNONITE STUDIES (MENN)

Updated February 12, 2013

Note: The department/program code MENN replaces the former code 33. Students cannot hold credit in MENN-xxxx and the former 33.xxxx having the same course number (e.g., MENN-1010(6) and 33.1010(6)).

Chair: Professor R. Loewen; Associate Professor: H. Werner.

The establishment of the Chair in Mennonite Studies was made possible through the generous gifts of Dr. David Friesen, Q.C., his family, and the Federal Department of the Secretary of State.

INTRODUCTION

The Chair in Mennonite Studies was established to give students an opportunity to study the rich heritage of the Mennonites and their contribution to society. Mennonite Studies is an Interdisciplinary Program, combining history, religion, culture, and literature as they relate to the Mennonites in the past and present. In the courses and seminars students seek to understand the once maligned and persecuted people, and consider the contributions they have made, and are making, to the development of the modern society, including religion, culture, literature, and art. The question of how the Mennonites seek to come to terms with the world around them is a major part of the Program's emphasis.

A major in Mennonite Studies, leading to a Bachelor's Degree, can be taken after consultation with the Chair in Mennonite Studies. Majors will take a variety of courses, including Mennonites Studies I and II, History of Peace and Nonviolence I and II, and a selection of more specialized 3rd year courses. Courses from other Departments can be counted towards the degree as electives if they contain significant research assignments on Mennonite issues.

A minor in Mennonite Studies is available to students pursuing a 4-year Bachelor's Degree. Those interested in completing a minor in Mennonite Studies should consult with the Chair in Mennonite Studies to plan their program of study. The Mennonite Studies Minor requires the completion of a minimum of 18 credit hours of courses in Mennonite Studies including Mennonites Studies I and II.

Students will find courses in Mennonite Studies an inspiring and informative addition to a liberal arts education. A Major or Minor in Mennonites Studies, or courses in Mennonite Studies, will be relevant to students interested in Anabaptist origins, Mennonite migrations through Europe, and today's global Mennonite community. A Mennonite Studies program will also prepare students to work in the fields that focus on conflict resolution, multicultural understanding, and spiritual discipline. Such a program of study will be relevant to students intending to write MA and PhD theses dealing with Anabaptist-Mennonite subjects. Mennonite Studies courses will also prepare students to work in such fields of journalism, law, education, counselling, and public policy analysis. Students may also choose some area of Mennonite Studies to pursue further scholarly work in such disciplines as Conflict Resolution Studies, History, International Development Studies, Religion and Culture, Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN MENNONITE STUDIES

Degree:	Students must complete a 4-year degree program in order to be eligible to hold the Minor.
Minor:	18 credit hours in the Minor subject, with a minimum of 12 credit hours above the 1000-level
Residence Requirement:	Minimum 12 credit hours in the Minor subject
Required courses:	MENN-2101(3) Mennonite Studies I and MENN-2102(3) Mennonite Studies II 12 credit hours from any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) All third year Mennonite Studies coursesb) HIST-2131(3) History of Peace and Nonviolence I and/or HIST-2132(3) History of Peace and Nonviolence IIc) One 3 credit hour U of W course in which the student has written a major research paper on a Mennonite topic (with the approval of the Chair)d) One 3 credit hour course in Mennonite history or related subject taken at a university level in another institution (with the approval of the Chair)
Restrictions:	Students cannot declare the same subject as a Major and a Minor.

COURSE LISTINGS

Students are advised to consult WebAdvisor or the appropriate Timetable on the website for courses offered during the current term.

MENN/HIST-1010(6)	Mennonites and the Modern World	MENN-3102(3)/HIST-3216(3)	Luther, Zwingli and Radical Reformers
MENN-2101(3)	Mennonite Studies I	MENN/HIST-3108(3)	Gender and Mennonites
HIST-2108(3)		MENN/HIST-3110(3)	Russia and the Mennonites
MENN-2102(3)	Mennonite Studies II	MENN/HIST-3111(3)	Conflict and Mennonites
HIST-2109(3)		MENN/HIST-3114(3)	Latin America and the Mennonites
MENN/HIST/CRS-2131(3)	History of Peace and Nonviolence I	MENN/HIST-	Mennonites and World Issues
MENN/HIST/CRS-2132(3)	History of Peace and Nonviolence II		
MENN-3000(6)	Special Topics in Mennonite Studies		

3116(3)
 MENN/IDS-
 3150(3) Mennonite Community and
 Development
 MENN-3202(3) The Mennonite Image in World
 Literature
 MENN/HIST-
 3212(3) Fact, Fiction and Images: Interpreting
 Manitoba Mennonites
 MENN/HIST-
 Mennonites in Canada

3541(3)
 MENN/HIST-
 4535(6) Immigration and Ethnicity in Canada
 and the United States

EXPERIMENTAL COURSES

MENN/GERM-
 2107(3) Introduction to Mennonite Low German

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students are advised to consult WebAdvisor or the appropriate Timetable on the website for courses offered during the current term.

MENN-1010(6) MENNONITES AND THE MODERN WORLD (Le3) This course is a history of the ethnic identity and religious faith of the Mennonites from the sixteenth century to the present. Students will interpret the writings of the Mennonites, including their letters, memoirs, and diaries. These sources will show how Mennonites related to such modern phenomena as Protestantism, nationalism, capitalism, feminism, and global culture. The course will trace the Mennonites as they migrated from Europe to North America and as they established themselves in Asia, South America, and Africa.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-1010(6).

MENN-2101(3) MENNONITE STUDIES I (Le3) This course is a survey of the origins and history of the Anabaptists in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Prussia and Russia. Attention will be given to the interaction of religion and culture in the history of European Mennonites.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-2108(3), and accepted for credit by Religious Studies.

MENN-2102(3) MENNONITE STUDIES II (Le3) This course is a survey of the immigration and resettlement of Mennonites in Russia and in North and South America. The course will include a study of the origins and distinctive characteristics of particular Mennonite groups and conclude with a brief survey of Mennonites around the world.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-2109(3), and accepted for credit by Religious Studies.

HIST-2131(3) HISTORY OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE I (Le3) This course examines the history of pacifism, peace movements, and nonviolence from ancient times to the 1700s. It focuses in particular on Europe, with special emphasis on the period from ancient Greece and Rome, to Early Modern times in Western Europe. The course also addresses history of peace in other parts of the world. Thus, it contrasts Christian traditions of nonviolence with those of Hindu, Buddhist and other eastern traditions. For case studies, the course examines Mennonite communities in 16th and 17th century Switzerland and the Netherlands.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-2131(3), Conflict Resolution Studies CRS-2131(3).

MENN-2132(3) HISTORY OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE II (Le3) This course examines the history of pacifism, peace movements, and nonviolence from the 1700s till the present. It focuses in particular on North America, but will also cover selected events in other parts of the world. The course, thus, contrasts Christian traditions of nonviolence with those of aboriginal, secular, and eastern cultures. For case studies, the course examines Mennonite communities in 19th and 20th century Canada and the United States where Mennonites have embraced pacifism as a fundamental principle of social organization.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-2132(3), Conflict Resolution Studies CRS-2132(3).

MENN-3000(6) SPECIAL TOPICS IN MENNONITE STUDIES (NT) This tutorial is designed to enable students to follow an aspect of Mennonite Studies in depth. The topic should be selected in consultation with the Professor. Offered on an individual basis to advanced students at the discretion of the Chair in Mennonite Studies.

MENN-3102(3) LUTHER, ZWINGLI AND RADICAL REFORMERS (Le3) This course deals with the relationship between the objectives and methods of the "mainline" reformers of the sixteenth century (mainly Luther and Zwingli) and those of the "radical" reformers (such as Thomas Müntzer, Andrew Carlstadt, and the Anabaptists), and assesses the historical results of this relationship.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3216(3).

MENN-3108(3) GENDER AND MENNONITES (Le3) This course will examine the role of women and of men in the evolving Mennonite society. It will trace these gender roles amongst the Radical Anabaptists of Western Europe, the agrarian Mennonite communities in Russia and North America, and the modern, urban centres in North America. The course will examine patriarchal structures of Mennonite households, churches, and communities, but also focus on the ways in which women create mechanisms of autonomy and meaning within those structures. The ideas that comprise Mennonite femininity and masculinity will receive special attention. Gender will also be traced through the Mennonite life-cycle, commencing at childhood and tracked through times of youth, marriage, mid-age and retirement. The course will examine how Mennonite theological teachings, everyday language, modes of production, fertility rates, and national cultures affect ideas of gender in Mennonite society.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3108(3).

MENN-3110(3) RUSSIA AND THE MENNONITES (Le,S3) This lecture/seminar course deals with the history of the Mennonites in Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union from 1789 to 1989. Cultural, economic, and religious developments of the so-called 'Mennonite Commonwealth' in the nineteenth century and of the far-flung Mennonite communities in the Soviet Union during the twentieth century are emphasized and analyzed.

RESTRICTIONS: May not be taken by students with credit in the former MENN-3203.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3110(3).

MENN-3111(3) CONFLICT AND MENNONITES (Le3) This course deals with the Anabaptist and Mennonite understanding and experience of pacifism throughout the centuries, with special emphasis on their dealings with nation-states, church schism, ethnic relations, and domestic abuse. **RESTRICTIONS:** Students may not hold credit for both this course and the former MENN-2103(3).

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3111(3).

MENN-3114(3) LATIN AMERICA AND THE MENNONITES (Le,S3) This lecture/seminar course is a study of the

founding and development of Mennonite communities in Central and South America. The focus is on problems European and Canadian Mennonites faced (and still face) in their attempt to establish an existence and identity in a predominantly Latin world. The course contrasts these conservative Mennonites to the more radical communities composed of indigenous Latin American Mennonites. In particular, it compares the manner in which the two groups of Mennonites have responded to the social and economic issues of Latin America.

RESTRICTIONS: May not be taken by students with credit in the former MENN-3101.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3114(3).

MENN-3116(3) MENNONITES AND WORLD ISSUES

(Le,S3) This lecture/seminar course studies Mennonite responses to the wider world, and examines changes that have taken place among Mennonites with regard to world issues over the course of history. These issues include: urbanization, environmentalism, poverty, mass culture, the communications revolution, the global economy and family life. An emphasis is placed on the Twentieth Century World.

RESTRICTIONS: Students with standing in MENN-3301(3) or HIST-3301(3) may not receive credit for MENN-3116(3) or HIST-3116(3).

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3116(3).

MENN-3150(3) MENNONITE COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT (S3)

This course analyzes the experiences of the Mennonite community in service and peace work. It highlights the values, approach, and methods particular to Mennonite humanitarian work. The Mennonite tradition of holistic development emphasizes individual transformation (providing the tools for indigenous development) and social transformation (involving all peoples in creating local, national, and global systems that are just). The work of Mennonite organizations such as the Mennonite Central Committee and the Mennonite Economic Development Agency, of ecumenical organizations such as the Canadian Foodgrain Bank and InterChurch Action, and of inter-organizational groups such as SEED Winnipeg will provide examples for student reflection and analysis.

PREREQUISITES: IDS-1100(6) or the permission of instructor.

CROSS-LISTED: International Development Studies IDS-3150(3).

MENN-3202(3) THE MENNONITE IMAGE IN WORLD LITERATURE (Le3)

This course deals with selected German and non-German authors who have treated the Mennonites as a major theme in their fiction. The following authors, among others, will be studied: H.J.C. von Grimmelshausen, Gottfried Keller, Theodor Fontane, Cæsar von Arx, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, and Sandra Birdsell.

HIST-3212(3) FACT, FICTION AND IMAGES:

INTERPRETING MANITOBA MENNONITES (Le3) This course introduces the student to a wide variety of historic Manitoba Mennonite writers. It includes authors of personal writings, authors or historic works from a variety of disciplines, and authors of poetry and historical fiction. This course analyzes the texts of these authors from the perspective of history, asking what light they shed on the lived experience of Mennonites in Manitoba and how specific historical times might have informed those writings. The course suggests a broad definition of "author", recognizing that all texts are literary constructions, employing particular media to make sense of the Mennonite worlds in Manitoba.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3212(3).

MENN-3452(3) ANABAPTISM AND EVANGELICALISM

(Le3) This course will seek to understand both Evangelicalism and Anabaptism in light of recent historiography. Considerable attention will be given to the

development of fundamentalism and evangelicalism in the past century in order to provide a basis for understanding the distinctive and common elements of the two traditions.

MENN-3541(3) MENNONITES IN CANADA (Le3)

This course will survey major developments in Canadian Mennonite communities from 1786 to the present. It will trace the following themes: the Swiss American and Russian roots of Canadian Mennonites; community formation in Ontario and Western Canada; Anabaptism in everyday life (especially the way it was played out in the family); theological developments in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; the survival of Mennonite faith distinctives in the urban and socially-integrated Canadian society since World War II. Special emphasis will be placed on establishing the unique features of Canadian Mennonite experience.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-3541(3).

MENN-4535(6) IMMIGRATION AND ETHNICITY IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES (S3)

This research seminar examines the history of immigration to North America between 1860 and 1960. The course focuses on the nature of migration patterns and the adaptation of immigrants to the new world, especially the rise of ethnic identities. The course discusses the similarities and differences in the Canadian and American immigrant experience.

CROSS-LISTED: History HIST-4535(6).

EXPERIMENTAL COURSES

Experimental Courses are new courses offered on a trial basis to gauge interest in various topics. Students who successfully complete any experimental course receive credit as indicated

MENN-2107(3) INTRODUCTION TO MENNONITE LOW GERMAN (Le3)

This course helps students develop a basic knowledge of the Low German language (Plautdietsch) as spoken by Mennonites who migrated from Prussia to Russia and subsequently to Canada, the United States and throughout Latin and South America. Students learn to understand spoken Low German and to conduct basic conversations in everyday situations. Although written Low German is not completely standardized, the course provides students with a basic reading knowledge of Low German texts. Instruction in the communication patterns and structures of the language is complemented by audio and video exercises as available.

PREREQUISITES: 40S or GERM-1001 or permission of the instructor.

RESTRICTIONS: Not intended for students fluent in Low German.

CROSS-LISTED: German Studies GERM-2107(3).