

The New School Special Area of Study



Description

Founded in 1973, the New School offers a different way of completing the mandatory English and Humanities courses. Students from all programs are welcome to join these “learning groups,” what we call our classes.

Our Approach

At the New school, students get to plan classes with the teachers (called “facilitators” at the New School) in an informal environment where everyone has a say. In our classes (which we call “learning groups”), students discuss the course materials and also talk about their own lives, where they are and where they are going. Classes are small and our students come from many different programs in the college, they get to know and learn from one another as well as from the facilitator.

We are sociable

We are a small community of about 175 people. Students like to hang out in our space on the 8th floor where we have a large lounge/ community space, computers, a kitchen, classrooms and offices.

We are serious

We are proud of past New School students, many of whom have established themselves in professions and careers as diverse as law, medicine, education, engineering, social work, business, cinema, writing and publishing, art, theatre, communications and a variety of community-based jobs. Our graduates report that part of their motivation comes from the seriousness with which they were encouraged at the New School to examine their own lives and think about their futures. They have benefited from their many hours of training in active listening and oral communication skills in addition to improving their analytical, writing and research skills.

5 things you should know about New School

New School is a **different way of doing Humanities and English courses**. It is not a program or profile; anybody at Dawson can take it. In **smaller “learning groups”**, students get to shape the content of their New School courses and to engage with other students and facilitators in discussion around issues that are relevant to their lives.

New School courses run **once a week**, instead of twice a week, usually in the late afternoon and early evenings. (This eases some of the pressure from your day schedule.) Our courses happen on the 8th floor, in a more **informal setting**, with couches, and tea or coffee if you come early and plug in the kettle!

You can take anywhere between 1 to 7 courses with us. These count for the **same credits as regular courses**, and you will see no difference on your transcript.

The difference is in the role you play in your learning.

Admission Requirements

Students wanting to attend the New School must be accepted in any diploma program at Dawson College. To register for English and Humanities courses in New School, go to New School page on the Dawson website where you will find instructions on New School registration. We are looking for curious and motivated students who seek a challenging approach to learning in a community setting where each person is important. Acceptance is based upon acceptance to Dawson College and your timely registration at the New School.

Application Deadline

If you would like to attend the New School, you must be accepted in any diploma program at Dawson College. All students need to **pre-register** for New School through the My Dawson portal. Visit our website to learn more about the process and our pre-registration dates.

Once you have registered, course selection happens the day before classes begin at New School “shopping”, which you must attend. Students will be offered at least 2-3 options of courses to choose from that will take place in the late afternoon and evening. You will sign up for a specific learning group and, at that time, we will also learn about you and your interests.