



**University of Guelph
Department of History**

MA Thesis Defence

Student: Nour Newman

Date: May 10th, 2024

Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Place: Virtual (contact histacademic@uoguelph.ca for Zoom link)

**“Forgotten Paradise: Ancient Damascus Water Systems, A Story
with Assassinated Witnesses”**

Abstract

Damascus is renowned as one of the oldest capitals in the world, with a history spanning over three millennia and continuous habitation. Despite this, there has been little comprehensive analysis of the city's ancient water systems. This study aims to explore the reasons behind the limited understanding of these systems within the historical context of ancient Damascus. Although numerous studies have been conducted on ancient water systems, Damascus has received little attention. The lack of historical records and archaeological findings within the old city poses significant challenges for researchers. This thesis seeks to investigate how the ancient inhabitants of Damascus managed their water systems and to address the gaps in the city's urban and hydrological history.

Advisor:

Dr. Renee Worringer

Committee:

Dr. John Walsh

Dr. Ingrid Hehmeyer

Dr. Tara Abraham (chair)