



Faculty of Religious Studies
Programs, Courses and University Regulations
2015-2016

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This publication provides guidance to prospects, applicants, students and staff

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Publication Information

Published by

Enrolment Services
McGill University
3415 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec, H3A 0C8
Canada

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1 About the Faculty of Religious Studies

The Faculty of Religious Studies has enjoyed a long history at McGill providing a wide range of programs, including B.A. programs offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts, theological programs, and several specialized graduate degree programs.

The Faculty's expertise in world religions engages many methods and disciplines, combining the rigorous and historically focused study of religious traditions and contexts with approaches that explore contemporary expressions of religions. For more on the Faculty's distinctive, holistic approach to the study of religion, please visit [About Us](#)

The Faculty is home to the Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR) and McGill Initiative in Globalization and the World's Religions. It is also affiliated with the Montreal Diocesan Theological College of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Presbyterian College Montreal, and the United Theological College of the United Church of Canada. Each of these colleges is located close to campus.

2 History of the Faculty

2.1 The Faculty and the Colleges

During the 19th century several Theological Colleges in Montreal became affiliated with McGill. In 1912 they formed a Joint Board for the academic study of Theology leaving each denominational College to provide its own professional training for Christian ministry. This relationship between the Colleges and the University led naturally to the creation in 1948 of a Faculty of Divinity, which assumed the academic functions of the Joint Board and designated the Montreal School of Theology. In 1970, the name of the Faculty was changed to the Faculty of Religious Studies. This University Faculty now offers the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) degree and several graduate degree programs.

3 Facilities

The Faculty of Religious Studies is located in the handsome William and Henry Birks Building, erected in 1931, formerly known as Divinity Hall, at 3520 University Street. Besides the usual classrooms, offices, and common rooms, this building accommodates the Birks Heritage Chapel and the Birks Reading Room.

4 Birks Lectures

An annual series was established in 1950 through the generosity of the William M. Birks. The lectures are given by distinguished visitors, usually in late September or early October.

The first lecturer was the Right Reverend Leslie Hunt. More recent lecturers have included Huston Smith, Northrop Frye, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Gregory Baum, Robert McAfee Brown, Krister Stendahl, Charles Adams, Jon Levenson, David Little, Azim Nanji, Paul Griffiths, Bernadette J. Brooken, Hervé Cox, John S. Haley, Gabriel Vahanian, Oliver O'Donovan, Jaroslav Assmann, Donald Lopez, Rami Brague, Vilhelm Fregusson, and John J. Collins.

5 Numata Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies

In recognition of the strong Buddhist Studies program in the Faculty of Religious Studies, the Numata Foundation has given a 20-year grant to the Faculty to bring a visiting scholar in Buddhist Studies to McGill each year.

The visiting professor teaches one course at the 500 level, gives a public lecture, and is available to students for conferences and consultation.

The first Numata Professor in 1999-2000, was Dr Mahinda Deegalle (Ph.D., Chicago), a Theravada Buddhist Sri Lankan monk. Subsequent visiting professors have included Dr John Pettit, Professor Robert Morrison, Drupten Jinpa, Dr Kate Crosby, and Ven. Yifa, Dr

6 About the Faculty of Religious Studies (Undergraduate)

Cultivating a thorough understanding of the world's religions and the roles of religion throughout history and in contemporary society is at the heart of the Faculty of Religious Studies teaching at the undergraduate level. The Faculty takes a multidisciplinary approach to scholarship on a plurality of religions and incorporates a broad range of perspectives and methods. In studying the world

Emeritus Professors

Maurice Boutin; B.A., B.A., B.A.(Mont), D.Th.(Munich) J.W. McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion
Douglas J. Hall; B.A.(WOnt.), M.Div., S.T.M., Th.D.(U.T.S., N.Y), D.D.(Qu.), LL.D.(Vat.), D.D.(PresbColl.)
Joseph C. McLelland; B.A.(McM.), M.A.(Tr.), B.D.(Knox,Tor.), Ph.D.(Edin.), D.D.(MontrDio. Coll.), D.D.(Knox,Tor.)
Donna R. Runnalls; B.A.(BCol.), B.D.(McG.), Ph.D.(Tr.)
Frederik Wisse; Ing.(Utrecht), B.A., B.D.(Calvin), Ph.D.(Claremont)
Katherine K.Young; B.A.(Vermont), M.A.(Chic.), Ph.D.(McG.)

Professors

Douglas B. Marrow; B.R.E.(Providence), M.Div.(Grace), M.Th.(Regent), Ph.D.(Lond.) (Christian Thought)
Torrance Kirby; B.A.(KCNS), M.A.(Dal.), D.Phil.(Oxf.) (Ecclesiastical History)
Gerbern S. Ogema; B.A.,Th.D.(Vrije Universiteit,Amsterdam), M.A., Ph.D.(Free Univ Berlin), Dr Theol. Habil(Tbingen) (Biblical Studies)
Armando Salvatore; M.A.(L'Orientale, Naples), Ph.D.(EUI, Florence) (Habil.(Humboldt, Berlin)
Arvind Sharma; B.A.(Alld.), M.A.(Syrac.), M.S., Ph.D.(Harv) (Henry Birks Professor of Comparative Religion)

Associate Professors

Lara Braitstein; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(McG.) (Indo-Tibetan Buddhism)
Daniel Cere; B.A., M.A.(McG.), Ph.D.(Columbia) (Religion, Ethics, and Public Policy)
Galle Fiasse; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Louvain) (Ethics and Religious Ethics) (joint appt. with Philosophy)
Garth W. Green; B.A.(Ariz.), M.A.(Catholic Univ of Louvain), M.A., Ph.D.(Boston) (Philosophy of Religion)
Ian H. Henderson; B.A.(Manit.), B.D.(Stnd.), M.A.(McM.), D.Phil.(Oxf.) (New Testament Studies)
G. Victor Hori; B.A.(York), M.A.(Tor.), Ph.D.(Stan.) (Japanese Religions)
Patricia G. Kirkpatrick; B.A.(McG.), M.Th.(Lond.), D.Phil.(Oxf.), D.D.(MontrDio. Coll.) (Old Testament Studies)
Davesh Soneji; B.A.(Manit.), Ph.D.(McG.) (SouthAsian Religions)

Assistant Professors

Jim Kanaris; B.A.(Cordia), M.A., Ph.D.(McG.) (Philosophy of Religion)
Andrea M. Pinkney; B.A.(McG.), M.A.(UH Manoa), Ph.D.(Col.) (SouthAsian Religions)

Numata Visiting Professor

Andre van der Braak; Ph.D.(Radboud)

Adjunct Professors

George Di Giovanni; Ph.D.(Tr.)
Barbara Galli; B.A.(Ca), M.A.(Tor.), Ph.D.(McG.)
Hilliard Todd Goldberg; A.B.(Bowdoin), A.M.(Harv.), Ph.D.(Harv.)
Alyson Huntly; Dip.Min.(Centre for Christian Studies, Winnipeg), M.T.S.(St.And., Saskatoon), Ph.D.(Qu.)
Philip Joudry; B.A., M.Div.(Acad.), D.Min.(Anderson Newton Theological School)
William Klempa; B.A.(Manit.), M.A.(Tr.), B.D., D.D.(Knox,Tor.), Ph.D.(Edin.)
T. Jinpa Langri; DrDiv., B.A.(King's Coll., Lond.), Ph.D.(Camb)
Anne Lealy; M.A.(Tor.), Ph.D.(New Br.)
Lucille Marr; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Vat.)
Susan Elmer; B.A.(McG.), M.A., Ph.D.(Cordia)
Angelica Pich ; B.A.(Saarbrücken), M.Th.(Ludwig-Maximilian)
Vanessa R. Sasson; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(McG.)
John M. Simons; B.A.(Bishop's), B.Trin. Coll., Tor.), Ph.D.(Gron) (PT)

Adjunct Professors

David Williams; B.A.(Boston); M.A., Ph.D.(Tr.)

Dale Woods; B.A.(Alta.), M.C.S.(Regent), M.Div.(Vancouver School of Theology), D.Min.(Luther Seminary, Minneapolis)

7 Overview of Degrees Offered

7.2.2 Admission Requirements

The B.Th. program has three points of entry:

1. To enter the 120-credit degree program from outside Quebec, you must hold a high school diploma, unless you qualify as a mature student. A maximum of 60 credits from another institution of higher learning can be considered for transfer into the 120-credit program.
2. To enter the 90-credit degree program, you are expected to have completed the Diploma of College Studies (DCS) from a Quebec CEGEP with a minimum average of Cote R of 24, or the equivalent elsewhere. A maximum of 30 credits from another institution of higher learning can be considered for transfer into this program.
3. To enter the 60-credit program, you must ha

For detailed information about registration, refer to [University Regulations and Resources > Undergraduate > Registration](#) or www.mcgill.ca/newstudents and to the courses website, www.mcgill.ca/students/courses

7.2.9 Withdrawal Procedures

Dropping or adding courses must be done via [Minea](#) prior to the deadline listed in this publication ([section 7.2.8 Registration Procedures](#)). Permission of the adviser is required for all changes to course selection. In case of withdrawal from the University prior to the published course withdrawal deadline, you must withdraw from all courses via [Minea](#). In addition, you must contact the Chair of the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) Committee and complete the necessary withdrawal form.

7.2.10 Graduation Requirements

1. The B.Th. is either a 120-credit program (if you were admitted from outside Quebec and without a prior Bachelor's degree) or a 90-credit program (if you

Dean's Honour List to designate in-course students who have completed a minimum of 27 credits during a regular session (14 credits for those registered for one term) and have attained a GPA placing them in the top 5% - 10% of their class.

7.2.13.1 Graduation Honours

Dean's Honour List For information on the designation of Dean's Honour List awarded at graduation, see [University Regulations and Resources > Undergraduate > Graduation > Graduation Honours > : Dean's Honour List](#)

Distinction: For information on the designation of Distinction awarded at graduation, see [University Regulations and Resources > Undergraduate > Graduation > Graduation Honours > : Distinction](#)

Honours: to designate graduating students who have completed a minimum of 60 credits at McGill and fulfilled the Honours course requirements with a CGPA of 3.20, or 3.50 for First Class Honours.

7.2.14 Evaluation

Competence in a course may be determined by examinations and/or essays, or by other means chosen by the instructor and approved by the Dean.

7.2.15 Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) - Religious Studies (120 credits)

The Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) degree requires 120 credits. Most students enter the program with advanced standing, and their credit requirement for the degree is adjusted accordingly

All students must discuss their course selection with their program adviser

The required and complementary course requirements describe the program for students who enter Year 1 (U1) with 30 credits of advanced standing based on a Quebec Diploma of College Studies (DEC).

Students admitted directly from high school into U0 must consult their program adviser regarding appropriate courses for their first year of study

Students admitted on the basis of a bachelor's degree will have advanced standing and should consult their program adviser to determine course equivalencies completed during their first year and how these affect their program requirements for the Bachelor of Theology Normally, these students start Year 2 (U2) and follow the requirements below starting with Year 2.

The normal course load in the degree for full-time students is 15 credits per term of 3-credit courses.

By permission of the Dean and the Chair of the B.Th. Committee, students may also enrol for courses at other universities in the province of Quebec. For further information, see "Quebec Inter-University Transfer Agreement: McGill Students" in the "University Regulations and Resources" section under "Registration."

Professional and vocational courses (e.g., leading to ordination) available through the In-Ministry Year (Master of Divinity (M.Div.)) upon the completion of the B.Th. degree.

Required Courses (54 credits)

RELG 203	(3)	Bible and Western Culture
RELG 204	(3)	Judaism, Christianity and Islam
RELG 207	(3)	The Study of World Religions 1
RELG 210	(3)	Jesus of Nazareth
RELG 302	(3)	Literature of Ancient Israel 1
RELG 303	(3)	Literature of Ancient Israel 2
RELG 311	(3)	New Testament Studies 1
RELG 312	(3)	New Testament Studies 2
RELG 321	(3)	Western Intellectual Tradition
RELG 322	(3)	The Church in History 1
RELG 323	(3)	The Church in History 2
RELG 333	(3)	Principles of Christian Theology 1
RELG 334	(3)	Christian Thought and Culture
RELG 341	(3)	Introduction: Philosophy of Religion
RELG 420*	(3)	Canadian Church History
RELG 434	(3)	Principles of Christian Theology 2
RELG 470	(3)	Theological Ethics
RELG 479	(3)	Christianity in Global Perspectives

* RELG 420 may be replaced with another 3-credit course if recommended by the program adviser

Complementary Courses (66 credits)

- 3 credits in History and Classical Studies at the 200 or 300 level
- 3 credits in Catholic Studies, Jewish Studies, or Islamic Studies at the 200 or 300 level
- 0-6 credits in languages (ancient or modern) at the 100 level (if necessary).
- 6 credits of literature (other than biblical) in History, or Music at the 200 or 300 level.

Note: All courses at the 100 and 300 levels require faculty approval.

3 credits from:

PHIL 200	(3)	Introduction to Philosophy 1
PHIL 201	(3)	Introduction to Philosophy 2

3 credits selected from the following list (or another approved course in ethics):

PHIL 230	(3)	Introduction to Moral Philosophy 1
PHIL 240	(3)	Political Philosophy 1
RELG 371	(3)	Ethics of Violence/Non-Violence
RELG 376	(3)	Religious Ethics

3 credits selected from the following list (or 3 credits in Political Science, Sociology, Psychology or Philosophy and Western Religions):

RELG 331	(3)	Religion and Globalization
RELG 375	(3)	Religion, Politics and Society

15-21 credits to be determined in consultation with the B.Th. program adviser

12 credits to be chosen from among the 300- or 400-level courses offered in the B.Th. or B.A. Religious Studies programs in consultation with the B.Th. program adviser of which 6 credits may be chosen from the following:

RELG 280D1	(3)	Elementary New Testament Greek
RELG 280D2	(3)	Elementary New Testament Greek

3 credits in a religious tradition* other than Christianity such as:

ISLA 380	(3)	Islamic Philosophy and Theology
RELG 252	(3)	Hinduism and Buddhism
RELG 253	(3)	Religions of East Asia
RELG 352	(3)	Japanese Religions
RELG 354	(3)	Chinese Religions

*Students who have previously completed a university-level course in world religions may replace this with 3 credits of complementary courses.

Old Testament

3 credits from:

RELG 407	(3)	The Writings
RELG 408	(3)	The Prophets

New Testament

3 credits from:

RELG 411	(3)	New Testament Exegesis
RELG 482	(3)	Exegesis of Greek New Testament

Christian Theology

3 credits from:

RELG 330	(3)	Reformed Theology
RELG 336	(3)	Contemporary Theological Issues

The Presbyterian College
Le Collège Presbytérien
3495 University Street
Montreal QC H3A 2A8

The United Theological College
Le séminaire Uni
3521 University Street
Montreal QC H3A 2A9

