



**Faculty of Religious Studies**  
**Programs, Courses and University Regulations**  
**2014-2015**



This PDF excerpt of Programs, Courses and University Regulations is an archived snapshot of the web content on the date that appears in the footer of the PDF. Archival copies are available at [www.mcgill.ca/study](http://www.mcgill.ca/study)

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

1 . McGill University reserves the right to mak

## Publication Information

Published by

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

All contents copyright © 2014 by McGill University. All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this publication, or portions thereof in any form.

McGill University reserves the right to make changes to the information contained in this publication - including correcting errors, altering fees, schedules of admission and credit requirements, and adding or cancelling particular courses or programs - without prior notification.

Not all courses are offered every year and changes can be made after publication. Always check the Mine and Metallurgy Class Schedule link at [https://horizon.mcgill.ca/pban1/bwckschd.p\\_disp\\_dyn\\_screen](https://horizon.mcgill.ca/pban1/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_screen) for the most up-to-date information on whether a course is offered.





---

## 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 Institute 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 (general) training for Christian ministry.





#### Emeritus Professors

Frederik Wisse; Ing. (Utrecht), B.A., B.D. (Calvin, Mich.), Ph.D. (Claremont)

Katherine K. Young; B.A. (Vermont), M.A. (Chic.), Ph.D. (McG.)

#### Professors

Douglas B. Arrow; B.R.E. (Providence), M.Div. (Grace), M.Th. (Regent), Ph.D. (Lond.) (Christian Thought)

W.J. Torrance Kirby; B.A. (KCNS), M.A., D.Phil. (Oxf.) (Ecclesiastical History)

G.S. Oegema; B.A., Th.D. (Vrije, Amsterdam), M.A., Ph.D. (Free Univ Berlin), Dr Theol. Habil (Tbingen) (Biblical Studies)

Arvind Sharma; B.A. (Allahabad), M.A. (Syrac.), M.S.T., Ph.D. (Harv) (Henry Birks Professor of Comparative Religion)

#### Associate Professors

Ellen B. Aitken; A.B. (Harv.), M.Div. (Univ. of the South), Th.D. (Harv) (Early Christian History and Literature) (In memoriam)

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)

Gaile Fiasse; B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (Louv)

---

## 7 Overview of Degrees Offered

Degrees Offered by the Faculty

[section 7.1 Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies](#)

[section 7.2 Bachelor of Theology](#)

[section 7.3 Master of Divinity](#)

---

### 7.1 Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Religious Studies

Honours concentration, Major concentration and Minor concentration in Religious Studies are in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts.

Admission is to the Faculty of Arts and all admission requirements and procedures, academic regulations of that Faculty apply to students in these programs.

For general information on B.A. Honours, Major concentrations, and Minor concentrations, consult the advisers. Check the website for a list of advisers. Detailed descriptions of the Religious Studies program for students are found in the Calendar under Faculties & Schools > Faculty of Arts > Undergraduate > Academic Programs > [Religious Studies \(RELG\)](#). Religious Studies B.A. Honours, Major and Minor students may take any of the courses described in the program except where otherwise indicated. For specific course information, consult the instructor.

Students who are interested in the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) ([section 7.2 Overview of Degrees Offered: Bachelor of Theology \(B.Th.\)](#)) or Master of Divinity (M.Div.) ([section 7.3 Master of Divinity \(M.Div\)](#)) programs should refer to the appropriate section.

---

### 7.2 Overview of Degrees Offered: Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)

The main goals of the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) program are:

1. to offer academic instruction in the disciplines of theology within a university setting;
2. to contribute to preparation for ministry in the contemporary world by giving special attention to the Canadian and North American contexts, the Quebec context, and religious pluralism.

The Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) may be taken as a first or second baccalaureate degree.

As a first degree (90 or 120 credits), i.407 573.397 Tm 1 17bA. Honours, >



Canada

If you are applying to one of the Theological Colleges, another complete set of these required documents must also be sent together. Please note that your file will not be considered by the Admissions Committee until all the required documents have been received.

### **7.2.5 Application Deadlines**

Applicants to the B.Th. program may be accepted into the Fall,

...ance of your adviser(s) who is/are registering for courses. You must have your courses approved and your Minerva form signed by the ... of Theology (B.Th) Committee before classes begin. If you are affiliated with one of the Theological Colleges, your Minerva form ... approved and signed by your College adviser

### 7.2.12 Academic Standing and Course Loads

#### 7.2.12.2 Probationary Standing

You are placed in Probationary Standing if either your CGPA or your term GPA falls between 1.50 and 1.99. (If you are a part-time student, your GPA is calculated on the basis of your last 9 credits.) While in Probationary Standing, you may take a minimum of 6 credits and a maximum of 12 credits per term.

While in Probationary Standing, you may return to Satisfactory Standing by completing 12 additional credits with a CGPA at least 2.50, or by completing 12 credits with a GPA and a CGPA of 2.00 or greater.

As a student in Probationary Standing, if you fail to achieve the levels of performance specified above, you will be placed in Unsatisfactory Standing, unless you obtain a GPA of 1.50±1.99 while continuing to have a CGPA of 2.00 or greater.

#### 7.2.12.3 Unsatisfactory Standing

You are placed in Unsatisfactory Standing if you have a GPA of less than 1.50.

As a student in Unsatisfactory Standing, you will have to withdraw, or seek readmission as a probationary student with special permission from the B.Th. Committee and the Dean. If you are a student who is readmitted on Probationary Standing, you are subject to additional restrictions or conditions to meet or exceed those required of students referred to above under Probationary Standing.

In the event that you are placed in Unsatisfactory Standing for a second time, you must withdraw permanently.

Students with a grade of K, K\*, L, L\*, or &&, you will have no GPA or CGPA calculated for that year and your record will show "Incomplete". After completing the appropriate course requirements, your CGPA will be calculated and your Standing determined as described above.

If your Standing is still "Incomplete" at the time of registration for the next academic year, you must obtain letter of Permission to Register from the Chair of the B.Th. Committee.

### 7.2.13 Academic Achievement

Several designations are used to acknowledge the superior academic achievement of students. These designations are awarded at the discretion of the Faculty.

Dean's Honour List: Students who have completed a minimum of 27 credits during a regular session (14 credits for part-time students) and are in the top 5% - 10% of the student body are eligible for this designation.

Information on the designation of Dean's Honour List is available at 0.632 so89(, one of the Tj 1 OrgeTj 1 ORGa )Tj /E2.8.1 Tj

### 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.

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

12 credits to be determined in consultation with the B.Th. program adviser

**Year 2 (U2) - Required Courses (24 credits)**

Students entering the B.Th. as a second-year program would normally take 60 credits and begin with Year 2 (U2) courses. These students should verify with their program adviser regarding course substitutions if they have completed similar courses elsewhere.

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 322 (3) The Church in History 1  
 RELG 323 (3) The Church in History 2  
 RELG 333 (3) Principles of Christian Theology 1  
 RELG 341 (3) Introduction: Philosophy of Religion

**Year 2 (U2) - Complementary Courses (6 credits)**

To be chosen from among the 300- or 400-level courses offered in the B.Th. or B.A. Religious Studies programs (or RELG 280D1/RELG 280D2) in consultation with the B.Th. program adviser

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

**Year 3 (U3) - Required Courses (12 credits)**

\* Note: RELG 420 may be replaced with another course if recommended by the program adviser

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

**Year 3 (U3) - Complementary Courses (18 credits)**

18 credits selected as follows:

One 3-credit course in a religious tradition other than Christianity as the courses listed below

Students who have previously completed a university-level course in world religions may replace this with another complementary course.

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

9 credits, one 3-credit course in each of the ~~following~~ areas:



Applicants for the M.Div. program

