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1 The Faculty

1.1 Location

William and Henry Birks Building
3520 University Street
Montreal, QC H3A 2A7
Canada

Telephone: (514) 398-4121
Website: www.mcgill.ca/religion

1.2 Administrative Officers

B. Barry Levy; B.A., M.A., B.R.E.(Yeshiva), Ph.D.(N.Y.U.)
Dean

Kathleen Macdonald; B.A., M.A.(McG.)
**Assistant to the Dean,
B.Th. Program Coordinator**

Luvana Di Francesco
Administrative Assistant

1.3 History

The Faculty and the Colleges

During the nineteenth 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. These relationships 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. This University Faculty now offers the Bachelor of Theology degree and graduate degree programs.

Today, the Colleges affiliated with the Faculty are: Montreal Diocesan Theological College of the Anglican Church of Canada; Presbyterian College of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; United Theological College of the United Church of Canada. They are all located close to the University Campus. In 1973 the Colleges pooled their resources in a year of professional studies (the In-Ministry year) to provide joint professional training for ministry. The Colleges now also confer a Master of Divinity degree on candidates who have successfully completed the B.Th. degree and the In-Ministry year for ordination.

Theology and Religious Studies

The original Faculty of Divinity not only taught theological courses for ordinands, it also engaged in teaching undergraduates in other faculties a selection of courses of more general interest, such as philosophy and psychology of religion and comparative religion. This selection grew over the years into the present B.A. Honours, Major and Minor Concentration programs in Religious Studies within the Faculty of Arts.

In 1970 the name of the Faculty was changed to the Faculty of Religious Studies to reflect the new emphasis on "the academic study of religion" in higher education.

1.4 Facilities

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

1.5 Birks Lectures

An annual series was established in 1950 through the generosity of the late 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 Hunter.

More recent lecturers have included Huston Smith, Northrop Frye, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Gregory Baum, Robert McAfee Brown, Krister Stendahl, Charles Adams, and Jon Levenson.

1.6 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 Numata Visiting Professor will teach two courses, one at the undergraduate level (RELG 337) and one at the graduate level (RELG 556), give a public lecture and be available to students during his or her term of office.

2 Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Religious Studies

Honours, Joint Honours, Major Concentration and Minor Concentration programs in Religious Studies are offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts. These programs are described in the Arts section, see "Religious Studies (RELG)" on page 118.

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

For general information on B.A. Honours, Joint Honours, Major Concentrations and Minor Concentrations and courses, consult the Adviser. For specific course information, consult the instructor.

Honours, Joint Honours, Major and Minor students must consult the appropriate adviser prior to registration each year. Appointments can be made by telephoning (514) 398-4121 or visiting the Reception Office in the Birks Building.

3 Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Students who have completed a first degree prior to the B.Th. with a minimum CGPA of 2.70 are eligible to apply the B.Th. degree towards the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree conferred by the Theological Colleges. This degree requires, in addition to the B.Th. degree, successful involvement in integrative seminars during the two B.Th. years and a year of

professional pastoral study beyond the B.Th., the "In-Ministry Year" offered by the three affiliated theological colleges under the auspices of the Joint Board of Theological Colleges.

Properly registered candidates for ministry at the affiliated Colleges are exempt from McGill tuition but must pay other McGill student fees. Information about church requirements and the professional year should be sought from the College Principals.

It should be noted that one biblical language, usually Greek, is required by some of the Colleges. Ministerial candidates should consult with the College advisers regarding biblical language requirements.

Prospective candidates for ordination with a B.A. Honours or Major in Religious Studies and a CGPA of 3.30 (B+) may apply for the S.T.M. degree followed upon completion by the professional year.

Applicants for the M.Div. program apply for entry into the McGill B.Th. program (for procedure see below) *as well as* to one of the Theological Colleges. Supporting documents sent to McGill will automatically be shared with the College in question. College application forms should be requested from one of the following:

Montreal Diocesan Theological College,
3473 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2A8

The Presbyterian College,
3495 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2A8

United Theological College,
3521 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2A8

Prospective students should contact the Chair of the B.Th. Committee to discuss their qualifications, expectations and objectives. Appointments can be made by telephoning (514) 398-3995 or by visiting the B.Th. Program Coordinator, Room 113, Birks Building.

4 Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)

The Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) program is meant mainly for those who intend to qualify for the ordained ministry.

The main goals of the program are:

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

Though most B.Th. students are ordination candidates who are sponsored by one of the three affiliated Theological Colleges, some students pursue the degree for purposes other than ordination. For ordinands, completion of a first degree is expected before entering the 60-credit B.Th. program.

4.1 ATS Accreditation

The B.Th. program and the combined B.Th./M.Div. program offered with the Colleges are fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

4.2 Admission Requirements

Applicants will normally be required to give satisfactory evidence of one of the following:

- a) For the 90-credit (first degree) program: the Diploma of Collegial Studies (DCS) of a Quebec CEGEP. A minimum average of 75% is required for admission.
- b) For the 60-credit (second degree) program: Bachelor's degree in Arts, Science, Engineering, Commerce, Education, Music, etc., whether or not it contains courses in religion or theology. Those who have obtained a minimum CGPA of 2.70 in such a

degree will be considered for admission into the two-year (60-credit) program.

4.2.1 Mature Student Admissions Policy

Residents of Canada who will be 27 years of age or older by September 1 of the year that they seek admission (for admission to the Fall Term) or January 1 (for admission to the Winter Term), and who lack the academic background normally required for entry into the B.Th. program, may apply for entrance as Mature Students.

If accepted, such students are enrolled in a qualifying year of designated Religious Studies and Arts courses (assigned by the Chair of the B.Th. Committee) before being considered for the 90-credit B.Th. program. A minimum CGPA of 2.50, with no grade less than C+ (60%), is required for advancement into the 90-credit B.Th. program.

Those who achieve a GPA of at least 3.00, with no grade less than B- (65%), during their first full term of the qualifying year may, upon approval of the B.Th. Committee, be advanced to the 90-credit B.Th. retroactively.

4.3 Application and Registration

All applicants must apply, and pay the application fee, on-line at www.mcgill.ca/applying.

Application deadlines for the B.Th. program are May 1 for fall admission, or November 1 for January admission.

Supporting documents for B.Th. program applications must be submitted to the Chair of the B.Th. Committee, Faculty of Religious Studies, by the deadlines given above. The required supporting documents are:

- Official transcripts of previous academic work.
- Two letters of reference, at least one of which should be from an instructor in an academic institution previously attended.

4.4 Admission Appeals Procedures

If an unsuccessful applicant, or a Faculty of Religious Studies Council member acting on behalf of the applicant, believes that not all factors having a bearing on the application have been fully considered, he/she has the right to request that the B.Th. Admissions and Awards Committee review the application.

If the findings of the review procedure uphold the initial decision of the B.Th. Admissions and Awards Committee, the applicant has the right to appeal in writing to the Dean. The Dean shall put the appeal before the B.Th. Appeals Committee, which shall consist of three full-time members of the Faculty of Religious Studies Council who are not at the same time members of the B.Th. Admissions and Awards Committee.

The decision of the B.Th. Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Vice-Principal (Academic).

4.5 Graduation Requirements

- a) The B.Th. is a 90-credit program, or a 60-credit program for those who have successfully completed a prior degree.
- b) The minimum residency requirement is 60 credits.
- c) For students entering the 90-credit B.Th. program not more than 30 credits are eligible for transfer from another degree program.
- d) Qualification for the degree shall include satisfactory standing (a grade of C or better) in all required courses and the complementary courses specified in year three, and the accumulation of sufficient acceptable credits to make a total of 90 credits.
- e) Normally the program credits must be earned within five years from the date of entrance.

4.6 Course Selection

Candidates for the ministry from the three Theological Colleges associated with the Faculty must select their courses in consultation with their denominational advisers and with the Chair of the B.Th. Committee.

Those seeking the degree who are not sponsored by one of the three denominational colleges associated with the Faculty will clear their course selections with the Chair of the B.Th. Committee.

In all cases this consultation should take place before registration.

4.7 Academic Standing and Course Loads

Satisfactory Standing

Students enter the University in satisfactory standing and remain in this standing unless their GPA/CGPA for any year drops below 2.00. The normal course load in any academic session is five courses per term (15 credits per term). A student with a high GPA (at least 3.00) may take more than the normal five courses per term.

Probationary Standing

A student is placed in probationary standing if the GPA/CGPA falls between 1.50 and 1.99. Probationary students **may take a maximum of 12 credits per term**, and must raise their GPA to 2.50 and CGPA to 2.00 within one academic session. Those who fail to do so will be placed in unsatisfactory standing.

A student in probationary standing may return to satisfactory standing at the end of the next academic session by obtaining either a GPA of at least 2.50 or both a GPA and a CGPA of 2.00 or greater unless the student was admitted on probationary standing. A student re-admitted on probationary standing must obtain a GPA of 2.50.

Students in probationary standing who obtain a GPA between 1.50 and 1.99 remain in probationary standing if they also have a CGPA of 2.00 or greater.

A student in probationary standing who fails to achieve the levels of performance specified above will be placed in unsatisfactory standing.

Unsatisfactory Standing

A GPA of less than 1.50 places a student in unsatisfactory standing.

A student in unsatisfactory standing will have to withdraw, or seek readmission as a probationary student with special permission from the B.Th. Committee and the Dean. A student who is readmitted on probationary standing may have additional restrictions or conditions to meet over and above those required of students referred to above under "Probationary Standing".

A student in unsatisfactory standing for the second time must withdraw permanently.

Incomplete Standing

A student whose record in any year shows a mark of K, K*, L, L*, or && will have no GPA or CGPA calculated for that year, and the record will show "Standing Incomplete". After completing the appropriate course requirements the GPA and CGPA will be calculated and the student's standing determined as described above.

Students whose standing is still "incomplete" at the time of registration for the next academic year must obtain a Letter of Permission to Register from the Chair of the B.Th. Committee.

4.8 Academic Achievement

Several designations are used to acknowledge the superior academic achievement of in-course and graduating students. These designations are awarded at the discretion of Faculty:

Distinction: to designate graduating students, not in Honours, who have completed a minimum of 60 credits at McGill and achieved a CGPA of 3.30 - 3.49.

Great Distinction: to designate graduating students, not in Honours, who have completed a minimum of 60 credits at McGill and achieved a CGPA of 3.50 or better.

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

Dean's Honour List: to designate *graduating* students with a CGPA of 3.50 or better. This designation applies in addition to those described in b) and c) above; except that it may not normally be awarded to more than 10% of the graduating class.

Dean's Honour List: to designate *in-course* students who have completed a minimum of 27 credits during 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.

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.

4.9 B.Th. Program

Unless otherwise authorized by the B.Th. Committee, the structure of the B.Th. program is as given below.

Students entering the B.Th. as a first degree program take 90 credits, beginning with the following courses:

Year 1 - Required Courses (12 credits)

RELG 252	(3)	Hinduism and Buddhism
RELG 253	(3)	Religions of East Asia
RELG 320	(3)	History of Christian Thought 1
RELG 327	(3)	History of Christian Thought 2

Students entering the B.Th. as a second degree program take 60 credits, beginning with Year 2 courses:

Year 2 - Required Courses (24 credits)

RELG 302	(3)	Old Testament Studies 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 3 - Required Courses (12 credits)

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 Perspective

* Exception permitted if recommended by College adviser.

Year 3 - Complementary Courses (12 credits)

One 3-credit course in a religious tradition other than Christianity, such as*:

RELG 252	(3)	Hinduism and Buddhism
RELG 253	(3)	Religions of East Asia
RELG 306	(3)	Rabbinic Judaism
RELG 352	(3)	Japanese Religions
RELG 354	(3)	Chinese Religions

9 credits, 3 in each of the following areas:

Old Testament

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

New Testament

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

Christian Theology

- RELG 330 (3) Reformed Theology
- RELG 336 (3) Contemporary Theological Issues
- RELG 399 (3) Christian Spirituality
- RELG 423 (3) Reformation Thought

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

With permission of the B.Th. Committee and the instructors concerned, students may substitute courses for any of the courses specified above if they have already taken them or similar courses for credit elsewhere.

Students proceeding towards the M.Div. degree are required, in addition, to participate in pre-term ministry seminars.

Additional Complementary courses

The remaining courses needed each term to make up the normal load may 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). The following courses are recommended and do not have a time conflict with B.Th. 2 and/or B.Th. 3 courses listed above:

- RELG 320 (3) History of Christian Thought 1
- RELG 327 (3) History of Christian Thought 2
- RELG 338 (3) Women and the Christian Tradition
- RELG 361 (3) Religious Behaviour
- RELG 423 (3) Reformation Thought

Permission is needed from the B.Th. Committee for courses selected from the curriculum of other departments of the University.

By permission of the Dean and the Chair of the B.Th. Committee, students may also enrol for courses at any university in the province of Quebec. See Inter-University Transfer Agreement in the General University Information section for details.

Professional and vocational courses (e.g., leading to ordination) are available through the In-Ministry Year (see section 3 "Master of Divinity (M.Div.)" upon the completion of the B.Th. degree.

Returning students are required to pre-register prior to the end of the previous academic year.

Summer Session Courses for B.Th. Students

B.Th. students may, **with their Advisor's prior consent**, take summer courses offered through the Faculty of Religious Studies that have been approved by the B.Th. Committee as electives within their B.Th. program. Any B.Th. student in satisfactory standing may take RELG 280 "Elementary New Testament Greek" as a B.Th. elective. No student, however, may take both Summer and Fall/Winter term versions of the same course, e.g., RELG 280 and RELG 280D1/RELG 280D2.

B.Th. students wishing to use summer courses to satisfy specific B.Th. requirements (e.g., the non-Christian religion requirement) must apply to the B.Th. Committee for permission **before** registering for the course(s).

B.Th. HONOURS

Students who have achieved a CGPA of 3.30 at the end of B.Th. 2 year may apply to the B.Th. Committee for permission to enter the Honours program. They will be required to complete RELG 494 and RELG 495 in the B.Th. 3 year with a grade of B or better, to complete the degree with Honours.

5 Academic Staff

- Gregory Baum; B.A.(McM.), M.A.(Ohio St.), D.Th.(Fribourg); Emeritus Professor, Theological Ethics (PT)
- Maurice Boutin; B.A., B.A., B.A.(Montr.), D.Th.(Munich); J.W. McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion
- Robert C. Culley; B.A.(Tor.), B.D.(Knox Tor.), M.A., Ph.D.(Tor.), D.D.(Mtl. Dio. Coll.); Professor of Old Testament (PT) (Post-retirement)

- Douglas B. Farrow; B.R.E.(Providence), M.Div.(Grace), M.Th.(Regent), Ph.D.(Lond.); Associate Professor of Christian Theology
- Douglas J. Hall; B.A.(W.Ont.), M.Div., S.T.M., Th.D.(U.T.S., N.Y.), D.D.(Queen's), L.L.D.(Waterloo), D.D.(Presb. Coll.); Emeritus Professor, Christian Theology (PT)
- Ian H. Henderson; B.A.(Man.), B.D.(St. Andrews), M.A.(McM.), D.Phil.(Oxon); Associate Professor of New Testament
- G. Victor S. Hori; B.A., M.A.(Tor.), Ph.D.(Stan.); Associate Professor of Japanese Religions
- Torrance Kirby; B.A.(King's, Halifax), M.A.(Dal.), D.Phil.(Oxon.); Associate Professor of Church History
- Patricia G. Kirkpatrick; B.A.(McG.), M.Th.(Lond.), D.Phil.(Oxon); Associate Professor of Old Testament
- B. Barry Levy; B.A., B.R.E., M.A.(Yeshiva), Ph.D.(N.Y.U.); Professor of Jewish and Biblical Studies
- Joseph C. McLelland; B.A.(McM.), M.A.(Tor.), B.D.(Knox, Tor.), Ph.D.(Edin.), D.D.(Mtl.Dio.Coll.; Knox, Tor.); J.W. McConnell Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Religion
- G. S. Oegema; B.A., Th.D.(Free, Amsterdam), M.A., Ph.D.(Fretz, Berlin); Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and Greco-Roman Judaism
- Arvind Sharma; B.A.(Allahabad), M.A.(Syr.), M.T.S., Ph.D.(Harv.); Henry Birks Professor of Comparative Religion
- L. H. Sideris; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Indiana); Assistant Professor of Environmental Ethics (*joint appoint. with McGill School of Environment*)
- Frederik Wisse; Ing.(Utrecht), B.A., B.D.(Calvin, Mich.), Ph.D.(Claremont); Professor of New Testament
- Katherine K. Young; B.A.(Vt.), M.A.(Chic.), Ph.D.(McG.); Professor of Comparative Religion (*James McGill Professor*)

Lecturers

- Lara Braitstein; B.A., M.A.(McG.); Course Lecturer in Sexual Ethics
- Robert Chadwick; B.A.(San Francisco Stage College), M.A.(Sir G. Wms.), Ph.D.(Montr.); Course Lecturer in Ancient Near Eastern Studies
- Antony Gabriel; B.A.(Syracuse), M.Div.(St. Vladimir's Theological Academy), M.A.(River Forest), S.T.M.(Lutheran School of Theology); Course Lecturer in Eastern Orthodox Mysticism
- Barbara Galli; B.A.(Carleton), M.A.(Tor.), Dip.Ed., Ph.D.(McG.); Course Lecturer in Religion and Culture
- Manuel Jinbachian; B.D.(Near East School of Theology), B.Litt.(Oxford), Ph.D.(Strasbourg); Course Lecturer in Septuagint
- Jim Kanaris; B.A.(C'dia), M.A., Ph.D.(McG.); Faculty Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion
- Lucille Marr; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Wat.); Course Lecturer in Church History and Christian Tradition
- John Milton; B.A.(C'dia), M.Div.(Trinity International University); Course Lecturer in Biblical Studies
- Rowshan Nemazee; B.A.(Trinity College of Vermont), M.A.(McG.); Course Lecturer in Women and the Christian Tradition/Feminist Theology
- Mirela Saim; B.A., M.A.(Bucarest), Ph.D.(McG.); Course Lecturer in Dialogues and Controversies
- John M. Simons; B.A.(Bishop's), S.T.B.(Trinity), Ph.D.(Georgetown); Principal, Montreal Diocesan Theological College; Course Lecturer in Theology
- Manjit Singh; B.A., M.A.(Delhi); Course Lecturer in Sikhism
- Glenn Smith; B.A.(Michigan), M.A.(Ott.), D.Min.(Northern Baptist Seminar, Ill.); Course Lecturer in Christianity
- Michael Storch; B.A.(Alta.); Course Lecturer in Sexual Ethics
- John Vissers; B.A.(Tor.), M.Div.(Knox, Tor.), Th.M.(Princeton), Th.D.(Knox, Tor.); Principal, Presbyterian College; Course Lecturer in Theology

Associate Members

- A. Uner Turgay; B.A.(Robert Coll., Istanbul), M.A., Ph.D.(Madison-Wis.); Institute of Islamic Studies
- Leigh Turner; B.A.(Winn.), M.A.(Manit.), M.A., Ph.D.(Southern Calif.); Biomedical Ethics Unit