

11 Faculty of Religious Studies

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11.1 The Faculty

11.1.1 Location

William and Henry Birks Building
 3520 University Street
 Montreal, QC H3A2A7
 Canada

Telephone: (514) 398-4121

Website: www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies

11.1.2 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**

11.1.3 History

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, now designated the Montreal School of Theology. This University Faculty now offers the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) degree and several graduate degree programs.

11.1.4 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 University Chapel and the Birks Reading Room.

11.1.5 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, JonLevenson, David Little, Azim Nanji and PaulGriffiths.

11.1.6 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 Visiting Professor teaches two courses, one at the undergraduate level and one at the graduate 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 include Dr. John Petitt, Professor Robert Morrison, Dr. Thupen Jinpa, Dr. Kate Crosby and Ven. Yifa.

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

Honours Concentration, Major Concentration and Minor Concentration in Religious Studies are offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts. Religious Studies B.A. Honours, Major, and Minor students may take any of the courses described below except where otherwise indicated.

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, Major Concentrations and Minor Concentrations, consult the advisers. Check the Faculty's Website for a list of advisers. For specific course information, consult the instructor. Students who are interested in the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) or Master of Divinity (M.Div.) programs should refer to the appropriate listing.

11.3 Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Students who have completed a first degree prior to the B.Th. with a minimum CGPA of 2.7 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. This is called the "In-Ministry Year" (IMY) and is offered by the three affiliated Theological Colleges under the auspices of the Joint Board of Theological Colleges.

Students from the affiliated colleges may be eligible for bursary assistance if they are properly registered candidates for ministry. Information about church requirements and the

professional year should be sought from the principals of the appropriate colleges.

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 3.3 (B+) may apply for the S.T.M. degree, followed upon completion by the professional year (IMY).

Applicants for the M.Div. program must apply to the McGill B.Th. program as well as to one of the Theological Colleges. College application forms should be requested from one of the following:

- The Montreal School of Theology
(formerly the Joint Board of Theological Colleges)
- École théologique de Montréal (affiliés à l'Université McGill)
3473 University Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2A8
- Montreal Diocesan Theological College
3473 University Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2A8
- The Presbyterian College
3495 University Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2A8
- The United Theological College/Le séminaire Uni,
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.

11.4 Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)

The Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) program is designed primarily for those who intend to qualify for the ordained ministry in a Christian denomination, although some students pursue the degree out of an interest in the academic study of theology for its own sake. Those studying for the ordained ministry pursue the B.Th. as part of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degrees (see above) offered by the three Theological Colleges affiliated with McGill: Montreal Diocesan Theological College (Anglican Church of Canada), the Presbyterian College (Presbyterian Church in Canada), and United Theological College (United Church of Canada).

The main goals of the program are:

- 1) to offer the academic disciplines of theology within a university setting and
- 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.

11.4.1 ATS Accreditation

The B.Th. program offered by McGill and the M.Div. program offered by the Theological Colleges are together fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada (ATS).

11.4.2 Admission Requirements

The B.Th. program has three main options:

- a) For the 60-credit or second Bachelor degree option, the applicant is expected to have already completed a B.A. or other Bachelor's degree with a minimum CGPA of 2.7 (B-). No credits can be transferred into the 60-credit option.
- b) For the 90-credit or first degree option, the applicant is expected to have completed the Diploma of Collegial Studies (DCS) of a Quebec CEGEP with a minimum average of 75%. This option is open only to applicants from the province of Que-

bec. A maximum of 30 university credits can be considered for transfer into the 90-credit option. A McGill student may apply for transfer into the 90-credit program.

- c) The 120-credit option is open to applicants from outside Quebec only if they intend to pursue the B.Th. as part of the M.Div. degree program. A maximum of 60 university credits can be considered for transfer into the 120-credit option. This option is also available to any applicant who qualifies for mature student status (see below).

11.4.2.1 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 (i.e., 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 into the 120-credit program of studies. 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 2.5 (with no grade less than 60%) is required for advancement into the 90-credit B.Th. program. Those who achieve a GPA of at least 3.0 (with no grade less than 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.

11.4.3 Competence in English

Please note that for non-Canadian applicants whose mother tongue is not English, documented proof of competency in oral and written English by an appropriate examination is required. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 575 for the paper-based version is required. Permanent residents of Canada may be required to submit a TOEFL score as well. All official documents must be sent to the Faculty of Religious Studies address given below.

11.4.4 Applying to the B.Th. Program

All applications must be made on-line at the McGill University Website for prospective students: www.mcgill.ca/applying. The on-line application process should take about 20 minutes and a credit card is required for payment of the application fee. Once completed, the on-line application form may be printed for your own records.

Note: Owing to McGill University's implementation of a comprehensive on-line application system, paper applications to the B.Th. Program can no longer be accepted. All applicants must apply on-line.

11.4.4.1 Required Documents

- Two letters of reference, at least one of which should be from an instructor in an academic institution previously attended.
- Official transcript(s) of all previous post-secondary academic work.

A complete set of these required documents must be sent to the Faculty of Religious Studies (see address below).

If you are applying for admission to one of the Theological Colleges, another complete set of these required documents must also be sent to the College concerned.

Please note that your file will not be considered by the Admissions Committee until all the required documents have been received.

11.4.4.2 Mailing Address

Bachelor of Theology Program
Faculty of Religious Studies
McGill University
3520 University Street
Montreal, QC H3A 2A7
Canada

11.4.5 Application Deadlines

Applicants to the B.Th. Program may be accepted into either the Fall or the Winter term. The on-line application deadline is **May 1 for September admissions and November 1 for January admissions**. Please note that all required documents listed above must be received by the Faculty of Religious Studies prior to these deadlines in order for the applicant to be considered by the Admissions Committee.

11.4.6 Tuition Fees and Funding

Information concerning current tuition fees may be found at the following Website: www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts. Applicants for admission to one of the affiliated Colleges should contact the institution concerned for information regarding College-related fees.

11.4.7 Appeals Procedures

An unsuccessful applicant or a Faculty of Religious Studies Council member acting on behalf of the applicant who believes that not all factors having a bearing on the application have been fully considered 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).

11.4.8 Registration Procedures

Students register on-line at www.mcgill.ca/minerva-students. Minerva for students provides Web access to registration, class schedules, course descriptions, and address changes.

- Returning students must register via Minerva between March 15 and the first day of classes. After this period a late registration fee will be applied.
- New students entering in September should register via Minerva between Aug. 7 and Sept. 3, 2005. After Sept. 3 a late registration fee will be applied.
- All B.Th. students should consult their adviser before registration.

11.4.9 Withdrawal Procedures

Withdrawal from and adding courses prior to the deadline listed in the Calendar (see above) must be done via Minerva. The permission of the adviser is required for all such changes in the initial registration. In case of withdrawal from the University prior to the published course withdrawal deadline, the student must withdraw from all courses via Minerva. In addition, students must contact the Chair of the B.Th. Committee and complete the necessary withdrawal form.

11.4.10 Graduation Requirements

- a) The B.Th. is either a 90-credit program (for those who were admitted on the basis of a Quebec D.C.S. or equivalent), or a 60-credit program (for those who were admitted on the basis of a recognized Bachelor degree).
- b) 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 either 60 or 90 credits. It should be noted that students who take the B.Th. pro-

gram as part of the M.Div. program need to maintain a minimum CGPA of 2.5 to be eligible for the M.Div. degree.

- c) Normally, the program credits must be earned within five years from the date of entrance.

11.4.11 Course Selection

Candidates for the ministry from the three Theological Colleges associated with the Faculty must select their courses in consultation with their College advisers. The course selection form needs to be signed by the chair of the B.Th. Committee.

Those seeking the degree and not sponsored by one of the three Colleges associated with the Faculty will need to clear their course selections with the Chair of the B.Th. Committee.

In all cases this consultation should take place before registration.

11.4.12 Academic Standing and Course Loads

Satisfactory Standing

Students enter the University in satisfactory standing and remain in this standing unless their GPA (grade point average) or CGPA (cumulative grade point average) 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 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 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.

11.4.13 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 the 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.

11.4.14 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.

11.4.15 Bachelor of Theology Program Requirements

The course extends over three academic years of full-time studies for those admitted with a Diploma of Collegial Studies and two academic years for those admitted with a Bachelor's degree. The normal load consists of five 3-credit courses (15 credits) each term.

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

Year 1 - Required Courses (9 credits)

- RELG204 (3) Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- RELG210 (3) Jesus of Nazareth
- RELG334 (3) The Christian Faith

Year 1 - Elective Courses (21 credits)

To be determined in consultation with the B.Th. program adviser.

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

Year 2 - Required Courses (24 credits)

- RELG302 (3) Old Testament Studies 1
- RELG303 (3) Literature of Ancient Israel 2
- RELG311 (3) New Testament Studies 1
- RELG312 (3) New Testament Studies 2
- RELG322 (3) The Church in History 1
- RELG323 (3) The Church in History 2
- RELG333 (3) Principles of Christian Theology 1
- RELG341 (3) Introduction: Philosophy of Religion

Year 2 - 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 RELG280D1/ RELG280D2) in consultation with the B.Th. program adviser.

Year 3 - Required Courses (12 credits)

- RELG420* (3) Canadian Church History
- RELG434 (3) Principles of Christian Theology 2
- RELG470 (3) Theological Ethics
- RELG479 (3) Christianity in Global Perspective

* Exception permitted if recommended by College adviser.

Year 3 - Complementary Courses (18 credits)

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

- RELG252 (3) Hinduism and Buddhism
- RELG253 (3) Religions of East Asia
- RELG306 (3) Rabbinic Judaism
- RELG352 (3) Japanese Religions
- RELG354 (3) Chinese Religions

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

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

Old Testament

- RELG407 (3) The Writings
- RELG408 (3) The Prophets

New Testament

- RELG411 (3) New Testament Exegesis
- RELG482 (3) Exegesis of Greek New Testament

Christian Theology

- RELG330 (3) Reformed Theology
- RELG336 (3) Contemporary Theological Issues
- RELG399 (3) Christian Spirituality
- RELG423 (3) Reformation Thought

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 RELG280D1/ RELG280D2) in consultation with the B.Th. program adviser.

By permission of the B.Th. Committee, students may substitute courses for any of the required courses if they have already taken them or similar courses for credit elsewhere.

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 [section 4.3.4 'Quebec Inter-University Transfer Agreement \(IUT\)'](#) in the General University Information section for details.

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

11.4.16 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 RELG494 and 495 in the B.Th. 3 year with a grade of B or better, to complete the degree with Honours.

11.5 Academic Staff

Emeritus Professors

Gregory B. Baum; B.A.(McM.), M.A.(Ohio), D.Th.(Fribourg)
 Douglas J. Hall; B.A.(W.Ont.), M.Div., S.T.M., Th.D.(U.T.S., N.Y.),
 L.L.D.(Wat.), D.D.(Pres.Col), D.D.(Queen's)
 Joseph C. McLelland; B.A.(McM.), M.A.(Tor.), B.D.(Knox, Tor.),
 Ph.D.(Edin.), D.D.(Mtl. Dio. Coll.; Knox, Tor.)

Post-Retirement

Robert C. Culley; B.D.(Knox, Tor.), M.A., Ph.D.(Tor.)
 Frederik Wisse; Ing.(Utrecht), B.A., B.D.(Calvin, Mich.),
 Ph.D. (Claremont)

Professors

Maurice Boutin; B.A., B.A., B.A.(Montr.), D.Th.(Munich)
(J.W. McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion)
 Arvind Sharma; B.A.(Alld.), M.A.(Syr.), M.T.S., Ph.D.(Harv.)
(Henry Birks Professor of Comparative Religion)
 Katherine K. Young; B.A.(Vt.), M.A.(Chic.), Ph.D.(McG.)

(James McGill Professor of Hinduism/Comparative Religion)

Associate Professors

Douglas B. Farrow; B.R.E.(Providence), M.Div.(Grace),
M.Th.(Regent), Ph.D.(Lond.)
Ian H. Henderson; B.A.(Man.), B.D.(St. And.), M.A.(McM.)
D.Phil.(Oxon.)
G. Victor Hori; B.A.(York), M.A.(Tor.), Ph.D.(Stan.)
W.J. Torrance Kirby; B.A.(King's, Halifax), M.A., D.Phil.(Oxon.)
Patricia G. Kirkpatrick; B.A.(Dal.), M.T.(Lond.), D.Phil.(Oxon.)
G.S. Oegema; B.A., Th.D.(Vrije: Amsterdam), M.A., Ph.D.
(Freie: Berlin), Dr. Theol. Habil(Tübingen)

Assistant Professors

Ellen B. Aitken; A.B.(Harv.), M.Div.(University of the South),
Th.D.(Harv.) (*Associate Professor of Early Christian History and
Literature*)
Gaëlle Fiasse; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Louvain-le-Neuve) (*Assistant
Professor of Ethics and Religious Ethics*) (*Joint appointment
with Department of Philosophy*)
L. H. Sideris; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Indiana) (*Assistant Professor of
Environmental Ethics*) (*Joint appointment with McGill School of
Environment*)
Devesh Soneji; B.A.(Manit.), Ph.D.(McG.) (*Assistant Professor of
Hinduism*)

Faculty Lecturer

Jim Kanaris; B.A.(C'dia), M.A., Ph.D.(McG.)

Course Lecturers

Lara Braitstein; B.A., M.A.(McG.)
Norman Cornett; A.B.(Calif.), M.A., Ph.D.(McG.)
Melissa Curley; B.A., M.A.(McG.)
Michel DiStefano; B.A.(Providence Col.), M.A.(Trinity International
University)
Antony Gabriel; B.A.(Syrac.), M.Div.(St. Vladimir's Theological
Academy), M.A.(River Forest), S.T.M.(Lutheran School of
Theology)
Manuel M. Jinbachian; B.Litt.(Oxf). Ph.D.(Strasbourg)
Jason Kalman; B.Ed., M.A.(McG.) (*Course Lecturer in Rabbinic
Judaism*)
Jim Kanaris; B.A.(C'dia), M.A., Ph.D.(McG.)
Sanjay Kumar; B.A.(Maharshi Dayanand), M.A.(Meerut),
M.Phil.(University of Delhi)
Cory Labrecque; B.Sc., M.A.(McG.)
Nathan Loewen; B.Th. (Can. Mennonite), B.A.(Winn.), M.S.T.,
S.T.M.(St. Andrew's Col., Sask.)
Jessica Main; B.A. (Calgary), M.A.(McG.)
Lucille Marr; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Wat.)
John Milton; B.A.(C'dia), M.Div.(Trinity International University)
Rowshan Nemazee; B.A.(Trinity College of Vermont), M.A.(McG.)
Michelle Rebidoux; B.A.(York), M.A.(UBC)
Mirela Saim; B.A., M.A.(Bucharest), Ph.D.(McG.)
Vanessa Sasson; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(McG.)
Manjit Singh; B.A., M.A.(Delhi)
John M. Simons; B.A.(Bishop's), S.T.B.(Trinity),
Ph.D.(Georgetown) (PT)
Glenn Smith, B.A.(Mich.); M.A. Ott.), D.Min.(Northern Baptist
Seminar, Ill.), D.Hon.(Union des universités privées d'Haïti)
Michael Storch; B.A.(Alta.)
John Vissers; B.A.(Tor.), M.Div.(Knox, Tor.), Th.M.(Princ.),
Th.D.(Knox, Tor.) (PT)
Richard Walker; B.A., M.A.(Calg.), Ph.D. Candidate(McG.)

Numata Visiting Professor

Ven. Yifa; B.A.(National Taiwan), M.A.(Hawaii), Ph.D.(Yale)

Associate Members

A. Uner Turgay; B.A.(Robert Coll., Istanbul), M.A., Ph.D.
(Madison-Wis.)
Leigh Turner; B.A.(Winn.), M.A.(Manit.), M.A., Ph.D.(USC)

Adjunct Professor

T. Jinpa Langri; Dr. Div, B.A.(King's Coll.), Ph.D.(Camb.)

