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GRADUATE HANDBOOK

**Graduate Handbook
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This Handbook is designed to supplement the information given in the *Graduate School Calendar*. The student should be acquainted with the information Provided in the *Calendar* and not rely entirely on the material presented here. Students are responsible for being familiar with the guidelines of the University and the Department.

GRADUATE PROGRAMME IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

1. INTRODUCTION

McMASTER UNIVERSITY

McMaster University is situated in Hamilton, Ontario at the western tip of Lake Ontario, sixty kilometres southwest of Toronto, and sixty kilometres northwest of Niagara Falls.

Incorporated in 1887 under the terms of an Act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the University was the outgrowth of two colleges which had undertaken educational work in Ontario since the 1830s. In 1957 the Act underwent major revisions and McMaster University is now one of fourteen private, but provincially funded, universities in the Province of Ontario.

The University has approximately 21,441 full time undergraduate students (and another 3,800 part-time) and 3,519 full-and part-time graduate students. The University has emphasized research in medicine, science and some areas of the arts and has exceptional laboratory facilities and a research library including, among other collections, the papers of Bertrand Russell.

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAMME

Since 1964, the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster has offered graduate programmes dealing with religion and human religious experience, past and present, East and West. The department has no confessional ties; it seeks rather, to cultivate reflection, and solidly-grounded judgement. The department draws on a wide variety of methodological resources, especially philosophical, philological, literary, historical, and social scientific, in the effort to understand religion and religious phenomena.

The department is a member of the Council on Graduate Studies in Religion and upholds the standards enunciated by that organization. Students who earn graduate degrees at McMaster must demonstrate excellence in the scholarly study of religion and the capacity for significant independent research, writing, and teaching in recognized areas of specialization within religious studies. There are currently about 58 graduate students enrolled in the department, and 14 professors active in graduate supervision.

FIELDS OF STUDY

FIELDS:

Asian Field

Judaism & Christianity in Antiquity:

Western Field:

AREAS:

Buddhism
East Asian Religions

Early Judaism
Early Christianity

Religion and Politics
Religion and Social Sciences
Western Religious Thought

In order that all graduate students have the opportunity to develop both depth and breadth in their courses of study, candidates for M.A. and Ph.D. degrees are normally required to choose one major area of study and one minor area of study from the above list of seven areas.

The following descriptions should give students some understanding of the type of work sponsored in each of the departmental areas.

1. ASIAN FIELD

Buddhism

Research is sponsored in this area primarily in Buddhist canonical literature in Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan and Chinese' Modern and Contemporary Buddhism in Japan; Medieval Chinese Buddhism; Buddhist thought; doctrine and practice East Asian Buddhism. Course work comprehensive examinations include (in addition to the listed areas of research) Indian monasticism, Buddhist apocrypha, and Buddhist understanding of death and dying. Students taking comprehensive examinations in this area should also have a broad knowledge of the history Buddhist Studies in Europe, North America, and Asia. A variety of approaches and methodologies are encouraged (textual, literary, social historical, art, historical, sociological, anthropological).

The Faculty members working in this area are Drs. Benn, Clarke, and Rowe.

East Asian Religions

Research sponsored this area in a wide range of topics, including Taoist canonical literature; the construction of Shinto; Chinese science; alchemy and medicine; the New Religions of Japan; and the relationship of Buddhism with Indigenous East Asia; popular religion in East Asia as seen in literary works, etc. Course work comprehensive examinations include many of these same topics. In addition, students taking major comprehensive examinations should have a good general knowledge of East Asian history and culture, including knowledge of secular literature. A variety of approaches and methodologies is encouraged (textual, literary, social historical, sociological, anthropological).

Faculty members working in this area are Drs. Benn, Clarke, and Rowe.

2. JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY IN ANTIQUITY

Early Judaism

Research is sponsored in this area primarily in the Dead Sea Scrolls, the writings of the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, Philo and Hellenistic Judaism. Course work and comprehensive exams include (in addition to the listed areas of research) Hebrew Bible, the history of Second Temple Judaism, and Early Rabbinic Judaism. A variety of approaches and methodologies for the study of Early Judaism are introduced (textual, literary, social historical, feminist, philosophical/theological, etc.).

Faculty members working in this area are Drs. Tervanotko, and Thiessen.

Early Christianity

Research is sponsored in this area primarily in the writings included in the New Testament, particularly the Synoptic gospels and the Johannine and Pauline literature, and in the early Greek Church Fathers. Course work and comprehensive examinations include the history of Christian beginnings (from Jesus to Constantine), the Jewish and Greco-Roman environment, and a diversity of approaches and methodologies

The Faculty member working in this area is Dr. Thiessen.

3. WESTERN FIELD

Religion and Politics

This area studies accounts of the interrelations between religion, ethics, and politics from ancient Greece to the modern West. Areas of concentration include the following (1) the history of political philosophy; (2) analysis of literary expressions of an understanding of religion, ethics, and politics; (3) study of critical social and ethical theories with reference to the underlying theological and philosophical anthropologies. Students are expected to develop competence in the ancient Greek, medieval, early modern, and modern periods through suitable course work and, in the case of doctoral students, preparation for comprehensive examinations.

Faculty members in this area are Drs. Hollander, Kroeker and Planinc.

Religion and the social Sciences

Research in Religion and the Social Sciences is primarily concerned with the anthropology and sociology of religion. Students are expected to acquire a thorough knowledge of the historical development of these fields, as well as of contemporary theoretical approaches. Students majoring in the area have worked in three primary fields; North American religion, including fundamentalism, Evangelicalism, and the new or occult religious movements; native religion and its interface with Christianity in African and North American contexts; and religion in twentieth century social thought, including Bertrand Russell studies. Area faculty have also contributed significantly to dissertations with social scientific emphasis in other areas of the department.

Faculty working in the area are Drs. Amster, Rothenberg, Rowe, and Takim; faculty from other departments in the Social Sciences are drawn upon for supervisory purposes as well as course work.

Western Religious Thought

This area covers philosophy of religion, theology, and ethics in classical and modern periods. Areas of specialization include patristic thought, the interrelations between philosophy and religion, hermeneutical theory, secular challenges to religious thought, modern theology and ethics, both Christian and Jewish. Course work and comprehensive examinations include both historical-systematic studies of perennial theological and philosophical themes and specialized contemporary topics.

Faculty working in the area are Drs. Hollander, Kroeker, and Takim.

FACULTY

For more information about Religious Studies faculty members, please visit

<https://religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/people>

LIBRARY RESOURCES

The McMaster University Library System is one of the finest research libraries in Canada. For information regarding the four libraries in the University Library system please visit

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/about>

VISITING SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Department of Religious Studies has an active Visiting Speakers Program. Details can be found on our website at

<https://religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/colloquia>

2. ADMISSIONS

All inquiries relating to admission to the graduate programmes in Religious Studies should be directed to:

Graduate Admissions
Department of Religious Studies
McMaster University
Hamilton, ON 18S 4K1
CANADA
relstud@mcmaster.ca

DATE FOR APPLICATION

Applications for admission to the graduate programmes in Religious Studies are processed in February - March. Applicants wishing to be considered for scholarships and teaching assistantships must have submitted their applications by January 15th (PhD) or February 15th (MA). Applications received after these dates can be considered for admission only. Admission to a graduate programme is normally effective in September.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All applications for admission must be completed online. Please visit the School of Graduate Studies website for detailed "HOW TO APPLY" information:

<https://graduate.mcmaster.ca/academic-services/how-apply>

The following items are required before your online application will be considered complete:

- **Statement of Interest:** Please include in your statement of interest a description of your background and proficiency in foreign languages, detailing the courses you have taken, the levels, and the grades that you received for them.
- Two academic references
- Official Transcripts
- English Language Proficiency
- Writing Sample (an essay or thesis chapter)

Applications are assessed by the departmental Graduate Affairs Committee with faculty representation from the different fields of the graduate programme and include graduate student representation. The recommendations of the committee are forwarded to the Graduate Admissions and Studies Committee of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Letters of acceptance are sent by the School of Graduate Studies.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A.

The normal minimum requirement for admission to M.A. study is graduation with B+ standing (in the final two years) in an Hours programme or equivalent in Religious Studies, or in a related discipline with significant emphasis on the study of religion. Related disciplines include Anthropology, Sociology, History, Philosophy, Theology, Political Science, Classics, and Near Eastern, South Asian, and East Asian studies. Graduates with preparation in related fields may be required to take a certain amount of undergraduate work in Religious Studies.

Admission is competitive; applicants who meet minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D.

Students are admitted to the Ph.D. programme at one of three stages of their academic work. Normally they have completed the M.A. degree. The primary requirements in these cases are distinction in their previous graduate work (equivalent to at least a McMaster B+_ and strong letters of reference. Admission is competitive; meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

During their first year of study in the M.A. programme at McMaster students apply for acceptance into the Ph.D. programme. The department recommends to the Committee of Graduate Admissions and Study one of the following:

- (a) admission to Ph.D. studies following completion of the requirements for the Master's degree;
- (b) admission to Ph.D. studies without completion of a Master's programme;
- (c) admission to Ph.D. studies but with concurrent completion of all requirements within one calendar year from the date of reclassification;
- (d) refusal of admission to Ph.D. studies.

A student in (b) may re-register as a candidate for the Master's degree, provided that work to date has met the standards for the Master's programme.

Students in (c) who do not complete the requirements for the Master's degree within the year lose their status as a Ph.D. candidate

Ph.D. level course requirements can only be undertaken after the student has been admitted to doctoral level study.

In exceptional cases an applicant with an Honour's degree in Religious Studies or a broad and comprehensive theological education may be admitted directly to Ph.D. study. Within one calendar year the progress of students admitted to Ph.D. studies directly from a bachelor's degree must be reviewed by their supervisory committee and the department. The department then recommends to the Committee of Graduate Admissions and Study one of the following: (a) proceed with Ph.D. studies; (b) not proceed with Ph.D. studies but re-register as a Master's candidate; (c) withdraw from the university.

A student admitted directly to the Ph.D. program may re-register as a candidate for the Master's degree. In this case, and also in the case of students in (b), the Master's degree is not awarded until all the requirements for this degree have been met.

Language Prerequisites for Admission to the Ph.D. Programme

Candidates applying for admission to the Ph.D. programme will normally be required to demonstrate sufficient competency in foreign languages to ensure their effective participation in the doctoral programme and to facilitate its timely completion.

Ph.D. applicants in the Biblical field should have acquired competence in one biblical language (Hebrew or Greek) and one foreign language of modern scholarship; they are also advised to begin study of the second biblical language, or of a second foreign language of modern scholarship, prior to the inception of their doctoral programme.

Ph.D. applicants in the Asian field should have begun the study of Sanskrit or Chinese or Japanese.

Ph.D. applicants in the Western field should have acquired competency in one of their required languages.

Interested students who have not acquired such competence are urged to contact the department to explore ways for preparing to meet the requirements.

3. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR M.A. AND PH.D. STUDENTS

Courses

For purposes of this Handbook, a course means a defined plan of study/teaching meeting on a regular basis for two consecutive academic terms. There are half courses (three units) and full (six units); half courses half courses are marked with an asterisk.

The department recognizes a particular merit in courses where a number of people meet together regularly. In light of this, in normal circumstances, a minimum of two-thirds of the course work requirements for any degree that should be met by courses that are not individually arranged.

When an arrangement is made between a student and a faculty member for an individually-oriented course to be taken for credit, a form must be filled out and submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee. The Committee will arrange for the assignment of a course number.

Religious Studies *701

RS *701 Issues in the Study of Religions is required of all students (M.A. students and Ph.D. students who have not done this course as part of their M.A.). It offers a forum for the discussion of issues central to the field of religion, and for the exploration of recent developments.

This course is normally offered in the first term.

SGS / 101 Academic Research Integrity and Ethics

The School of Graduate Studies Calendar states the following:

All graduate students, including part-time students, exchange students and visiting students must complete and pass the course *SGS 101 Academic Integrity and Ethics* within the first month of their first term after their admission to graduate studies at McMaster. The purpose of this course is to ensure that the standards and expectations of academic integrity and research ethics are communicated early and are understood by incoming students. All students are required to take and pass *SGS 101*. Students may not graduate or register in subsequent academic terms without having successfully completed this course.

To access the course material, students should visit Avenue to Learn at <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> and click on the McMaster e-Learning button. Your MacID and Password are required to access Avenue to Learn.

SGS / 201 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Training

The School of Graduate Studies Calendar states the following:

All graduate students are required to complete appropriate training required to complete their research and studies (health and safety training, ethics training, biosafety training, etc.), as determined by their home Department or Program. All graduate students also are required to complete and pass *SGS 201 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*, which can be completed on-line [<http://accessibility.mcmaster.ca/>]. Having an understanding of how we can identify and reduce attitudinal, structural, information, technological, and systemic barriers to persons with disabilities is core to McMaster University's commitment to supporting an inclusive community in which all persons are treated with dignity and equality, and completion of AODA training is critical as McMaster graduates move forward in their varied, chosen professions.

Students may not graduate or register for subsequent terms in their program until they have completed their required training.

Breadth Requirement

All students must fulfil the breadth prerequisite consisting of six units (two semesters) of undergraduate work in Asian religions beyond the first-year level. This is a part of the admissions requirement for both M.A. and Ph.D. programmes. The letter of admission will indicate if this requirement has not met prior to entry into the graduate programme. Students who do not meet this requirement will be expected to fulfil their breadth requirement by taking six units of undergraduate courses, or by writing two Breadth Requirement examinations, or by taking a three-unit undergraduate course and writing one Breadth Requirement examination. The regulations for these examinations are available in the departmental office, UH 123. Students needing to fulfill the requirement must do so early in their degree programme.

All students must fulfill the breadth prerequisite consisting of six units (two semesters) of undergraduate work in Western religions beyond first-year level. This is a part of the admissions requirement for both M.A. and Ph.D. programmes. The letter of admission will indicate if this requirement has not met prior to entry into the graduate programme. Students who do not meet this requirement will be expected to fulfil their breadth requirement by taking six units of undergraduate courses, or by writing two Breadth Requirement examinations, or by taking a three-unit undergraduate course and writing one Breadth Requirement examination. The regulations for these examinations are available in the departmental office, UH 123. Students needing to fulfill the requirement must do so early in their degree programme.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum language requirement for the M.A. is a demonstrated ability in the language other than English which is most likely to be of assistance in the student's research. The minimum Ph.D. requirement is competence in two such languages. Work in several areas of the department entails additional language requirements, as specified below.

Responsibility for the choice of the language(s) to be examined lies with the advisory/supervisory committee which acts in accordance with individual area requirements, where such exist. In some cases, additional languages or more advanced levels of language competence may be required by the advisory/supervisory committee.

The language requirement(s) should be met in one of the following ways:

- (1) Where a student has already done course work in the relevant language at the university level, a grade of B in a full year (six unit) second level, or above, university course (if taken elsewhere, equivalent to the relevant McMaster course) taken within the last five years is generally considered adequate for fulfilling the requirement in the language.
- (2) Language exams in French and German are set by the department and normally graded by readers in the French and German department. B- is the minimum passing grade. French and German exams are normally taken at three set times during the year. When the university offers facilities for examination (e.g., Latin, Spanish), the passing of the relevant examination will fulfill the requirement.
- (3) Where languages are proposed for which no university offerings are available, the advisory/supervisory committee is responsible for arranging for the examination of the language.

(4) Where the language chosen is the student's native language, and his or her knowledge of that language is of university level, the language requirement in the language may be understood as having been fulfilled.

Final judgement on fulfillment of the minimum language requirements rests with the student's advisory committee, whose decisions are subject to departmental approval.

Language requirements should normally be met within 36 months of the beginning of the Ph.D. programme.

Language Requirements: Asian Field Buddhism and the East Religions

For M.A. students and Ph.D. students whose theses involve thematic or comparative studies, two years study of Sanskrit or Tibetan or Japanese or Chinese is normally required. For Ph.D. students, the requirement must be met for a second language as well.

For Ph.D. students whose theses, in the judgement of the supervisory committee, require analyses of texts in the original languages, (a) three years of Sanskrit or Tibetan or Japanese or Chinese, and (b) two years of a second language from this list are required.

Language Requirements: Biblical Field Early Judaism

M.A. students must complete language requirements in Hebrew and a modern language, usually French or German.

Ph.D. students must complete language requirements in Greek and two modern languages (usually French and German) as well as the equivalent of three years of undergraduate courses in Hebrew.

Early Christianity

M.A. student must complete language requirements in Greek and a modern language, usually French or German.

Ph.D. students must complete language requirements in Hebrew and two modern languages (usually French and German) as well as equivalent of three years of undergraduate courses in Greek.

Language Requirements: Western Field

M.A. students must complete requirements in the language most likely to be of assistance in the student's research. Ph.D. students must complete requirements for two such languages.

THE M.A. PROGRAMME

Requirements

For the M.A. degree students are required to:

- complete the required coursework
- complete the Asian Breadth Requirement (see Handbook, p. 8)
- complete the Western Breadth Requirement (see Handbook, p.8)
- demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language (language requirements specific to the various fields are described above)
- do a thesis or a project showing some measure of independent competence in dealing with a limited but significant question
(See Guidelines for M.A. & Ph.D. Proposals, p.16)

Students entering the M.A. programme should nominate an advisory committee of at least two faculty members by the third Wednesday in October. The chair of the committee should be a faculty member from the student's major area of study. The advisory committee will discuss with candidates their interests and course of study. It will advise the student on whether to write a thesis or do a project.

Courses

The normal procedure for students working toward the M.A. degree is to take seven graduate-level half courses:

- four half courses in the major area of study
- two half courses in the minor area of study
- R.S. *701 (see above)

Four of these half courses must be in Religious Studies; two half courses may be taken outside the department in a relevant area of study. To receive the M.A. degree, the student must have at least B-standing in these courses.

Thesis or Project (See Guidelines for Proposals, p. 16)

A thesis deals with a specific topic of research and includes the scholarly presentation of the results. It should show an ability to deal with primary material on a limited problem. Text-critical studies or translation with commentary may also be proposed.

A project normally covers broad areas of learning. It is designed to permit students to move into new areas, to read large and unfamiliar bodies of texts, and to deal comprehensively with large questions. The basic difference between the two kinds of written documents is that a thesis attempts to arrive at some conclusion and to justify that conclusion with appropriate evidence. A project report, on the other hand, is not argumentative but informative. It recounts the research done by the student. Argument may fill the account, but it is argument merely reported on. Whereas a thesis argues for the certain or probable truth of a conclusion, a project report narrates what the anticipations of the inquiry were and whether they were realized or disappointed; what the strategy of the research was and what changes, if any, it underwent; finally, what the results were, positive or negative.

Areas in which a candidate may conduct thesis and project research are limited by available faculty and library resources. Candidates should not assume that they may write on any subject in the whole field of religious studies.

Where the thesis or the project route is agreed upon, the advisory committee helps the student to settle on a topic. The student writes a formal proposal, two to three pages in length (300-600 words) with a brief bibliography.

The proposal is submitted first to the student's committee for the approval and signature of each member. The committee chair submits the proposal to the Graduate Affairs Committee for approval, together with a recommendation for the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee may or may not be the same as the advisory committee.

The Graduate Affairs Chair will notify the student and the chair of the newly formed supervisory committee of the decision. The approval of the proposal and the composition of the supervisory committee will be reported for information at the next regular Department Meeting.

Procedure for Submitting an M.A. Thesis/Project for Defence

The following form (available on the Religious Studies website at <http://religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/resources/graduate-forms/guidelines-for-proposals-and-proposal-submission-form.pdf>) must be submitted in conjunction with your supervisor, to the Chair of the Department:

1. Intention of Candidate to Submit M.A. Thesis/Project
(To be submitted to the Chair of the Department at least four weeks before the anticipated date of defence)

This will facilitate the coordination of arrangements necessary for M.A. defences.

A completed thesis must be examined by a committee of not fewer than three members (including the supervisor). When the supervisory committee consists of only two members, a third member is appointed by the department chair. The thesis is defended by the candidate in an oral examination before this committee. Both the written thesis and its oral defence must be deemed satisfactory. One electronic copy of the thesis must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies through the E-Thesis Submission module in Digital Commons. In addition, the Department of Religious Studies requires one bound copy of the thesis. The Department will reimburse students for the cost of binding. Information regarding final submission of theses can be found on the Graduate Studies website at: <https://gs.mcmaster.ca/current-students/completing-your-degree/masters-thesis/>

A completed project must be examined by at least two faculty members appointed by the area. This examination of the project may be oral or written, or both. During the examination, the student is expected to be able to give a clear account of the research project, and to present evidence of its scope and significance. A copy of the project report is kept in the departmental library. The Department will reimburse students for the cost of binding this departmental copy.

THE PH.D. PROGRAMME

Requirements

For the PH.D., students are required to:

- complete the required coursework
 - complete the Asian Breadth Requirement (see Handbook p. 8)
 - complete the Western Breadth Requirement (see Handbook p. 8)
 - have a reading knowledge of at least two foreign languages (language requirements specific to the various fields are described above)
 - pass comprehensive examinations in major and minor fields
 - defend a thesis which is a significant and original scholarly contribution
- See Guidelines for M.A. & PH.D. Proposals, p. 16

By the third Wednesday in October in their first year, each candidate will nominate an advisory committee of at least three members. Normally, a Ph.D. advisory committee consists of the principal advisor from the student's major area of study, a second advisor, and a minor area representative.

Courses

Students working toward the Ph.D. must take at least five half courses at the graduate level at McMaster beyond the M.A. For information about RS *701, Issues in the Study of Religions see p. 7. RS *701 may not be counted among the five half courses required for the Ph.D. degree. Additional courses may be required by the candidate's advisory committee.

Students who have completed an M.A. elsewhere must normally complete at least one half course in the minor area of study. Students who have completed an M.A. in the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster do not have to do additional course work in the minor area, though they are encouraged to do so.

Three half courses must be in Religious Studies; two half courses may be taken outside the department in a relevant area of study. Exceptions may be made by the candidate's advisory committee.

To receive the Ph.D. degree, the student must have at least B- standing in each of the required courses.

Comprehensive Examinations

Each doctoral student must write two comprehensive exams, one in the major area of study and the other in the minor area of study. Normally, comprehensive examinations are taken after the completion of the required coursework.

An essential implication of the Ph.D. degree at McMaster is that the holder has a comprehensive breadth knowledge and a maturity of approach to a wide range of topics within the discipline. The comprehensive examinations test this knowledge and maturity.

The examinations are meant to examine the adequacy of the student's habitual knowledge. This means, negatively, that the examinations are not meant to test the student's research capacities, or command of the recondite research data that might go into a doctoral dissertation. Positively, it means that the examinations test the student's hold on general knowledge: the kind of knowledge that all persons in the field are presumed to have.

The habitual knowledge in question is a hold on evidence, not merely a catalogue of opinions. It might largely consist of information, but the information should be selective, relevant to issues, and up to date. It would allow the student to define the main issues in the discipline and to say on what basis they are diversely viewed by diverse schools of thought.

Within these general parameters, the comprehensive examinations take somewhat different forms in each field. It is important that students begin discussion about their examinations with their advisory committee early in their program, certainly by the spring committee meeting in their first year. Each area provides a basic reading list for comprehensive examinations which the student should obtain in the early stages of their programme.

Students are advised to consult the Chair of their Advisory Committee regarding the format and questions for both their major and minor comprehensive examinations. Faculty members may choose to have the questions they have written kept in a file in the Departmental office to be shown to future candidates. If they choose to do so, they must indicate in some way which of the questions were specifically written in the light of the particular research interests of the candidates who wrote the examination. This file will be reviewed periodically in the questions from examinations written over five years earlier will be removed from the file. Faculty members may also choose to make available previous questions to students in person, with proper explanations, or to describe the kind of questions given to the candidate in other ways.

In accordance with regulations set by the Graduate School, comprehensive examinations are to be completed within 24 months of the beginning of the Ph.D. programme.

Comprehensive examinations are written at four times during the year; the second and third weeks in September; the second and third weeks in January; the first and second weeks in May, and the first and second weeks in July.

Students should indicate their intention to take a comprehensive examination during one of the periods scheduled for their writing by filling out, in consultation with their supervisors, the required form at least one month before the date of writing. Exceptionally, if a student wishes to write outside the set dates for reasons of personal circumstances, the supervisor of the student is to put the request to the Chair of Graduate Affairs, who will make the decision in consultation with the Chair of the Department, and advise the supervisor accordingly.

In writing the major examination, there usually will be two equal parts, each a maximum of five hours, written on different days; for the minor, there usually will be two equal parts, each a maximum of four hours, written on different days. One of these two parts may be taken orally; in this case, the time limits will be appropriately adjusted.

The scope of the comprehensive examinations is determined by each area; the questions for the examinations must be set by a faculty member from the area in which the examination is being taken. The questions are to be submitted one week in advance of the examination to the office of the department chair, which administers the examination. The questions are to be included in the student's permanent file.

Each examination is to be graded by two faculty examiners, both members of the field in which the examination is being written; the first reader must be a faculty member from the area of the examination. Results of the comprehensive examinations are to be announced to the student within one month of the completion of the last examination. A grade of B- or above is required for passing the examination. A "Pass with distinction" is awarded when the student achieves an average grade of A (numerical 11) or A+ (numerical 12 in both the major comprehensive examination and the minor).

Research projects, done prior to the examination and written outside its framework, are not to be assigned in lieu of comprehensive examination.

The Thesis

areas in which a candidate may conduct thesis research are limited by available faculty and library resources. Candidates should not assume that they may write on any subject in the whole field of religious studies. Each topic must be carefully examined, defined, and approved by the department. Queries on this matter should be directed, very early in the candidate's career, to their advisory committee.

Within one month of the completion of comprehensive examinations, students should submit a statement of their thesis subject to the Graduate Affairs Committee. At this stage, the statement can be very short (a paragraph). This statement is to be accompanied by the Doctoral Statement Submission form, which must be signed by Chair of the student's advisory committee. Available here: <https://religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/resources/graduate-forms/doctoral-statement-submission.pdf>

At the same time, the student, after consulting with the advisory committee, will submit a "Nomination of the Supervisory Committee form for the approval of the Graduate Affairs Committee (available here: <https://religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/resources/graduate-forms/religious-studies-nomination-supervisory-committee.pdf> . This will include the names of three (occasionally four) faculty members who will serve as the supervisory committee for the thesis. The main supervisor of the thesis is to be drawn from the faculty members in the area within which the thesis is being written.

Normally supervisory committees include at least one other faculty member from the department, and where feasible, a faculty member from outside the Department of Religious Studies. In cases where faculty members from other universities are included in the proposed supervisory committee, the chair of the advisory committee will contact that person to ascertain that he or she is prepared to join the committee. After the composition of the proposed supervisory committee has been approved by the Graduate Affairs Committee, the Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee will request the Dean of Graduate Studies formally to invite the member from another university to join the committee. The Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee will report the composition of the supervisory committee at the next departmental meeting.

The Thesis Proposal (See Guidelines for Proposals, p. 16)

Within six months of the completion of comprehensive examinations, the student is to submit a thesis proposal to the Graduate Affairs Committee for oral defence and approval. The proposal is to be roughly five to seven pages in length (1500-2000 words) and is to be accompanied by a brief preliminary bibliography.

The proposal is a formal piece of written work which will be judged for composition, clarity, and style as well as content. While not intended to be a report on research already completed, the proposal should include a clear statement of the question which the thesis is intended to answer, of the method and procedure with which the inquiry is to be pursued, and, in the light of the current state of scholarship, of the contribution which the dissertation can be expected to make.

The careful formulation and defence of a thesis proposal is intended to ensure the projects viability in principle at an early stage in the student's research. Like the oral defence at the completion of the thesis, and in preparation for it, the student presentation to an open session of the Graduate Affairs Committee requires that students demonstrate a capacity to explain their work to educated non-specialists as well as specialists and respond thoughtfully to requests for clarification, objections, and suggestions. Conducted at an early stage in the writing of the thesis, the discussion around the proposal is intended to assist students in focusing on what is essential to its completion. **Please note: the student is not to read the defense of proposal from a prepared script.**

Once the thesis proposal is signed by each member of the student's supervisory committee, the committee chair submits it to the Graduate Affairs Committee for approval. A one-page abstract is, at the same time, circulated to all faculty members. The full proposal is kept in a file in UH 123 and made available to faculty. All interested members of the department are invited to submit written responses to the proposal and/or to participate in that portion of the Graduate Affairs Committee meeting during which the proposal is discussed.

The proposal is evaluated by the Graduate Affairs Committee (no sooner than two weeks after the general circulation of the proposal). The student is required to attend this meeting, and the student's supervisor (or a substitute designated by the supervisory committee) is also expected to attend. The Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee notifies the student and the chair of the supervisory committee of the Graduate Affairs Committee's decision. The approval of the proposal is reported for information at the next regular department meeting.

Writing and Defence of the Thesis

The final thesis copy should be prepared in accordance with the Graduate School booklet "A Guide for the Preparation of Thesis." This guide, thesis regulations, forms, and information about the final stages of submission and defence are available through the School of Graduate Studies website at <https://graduate.mcmaster.ca/resources>

Responsibility for compliance with these rules and neat preparation of the final copy rests with the student.

The Doctoral Thesis Defence submission system is available online. **AFTER** consultation with your supervisory committee regarding a submission/defense date/timeline, the student is responsible for initiating the process. For information, please visit the school of graduate studies website at: <https://gs.mcmaster.ca/current-students/completing-your-degree/>

Completion Deadlines for the Ph.D. Programme

Regulations regarding the time within which various components of the Ph.D. programme are to be completed are set by the department and the Graduate School. This time framework seeks to facilitate the completion of the Ph.D. within the four years for which funding is provided.

- Comprehensive examinations are to be completed within 24 months of the start of the programme.
- One month after the completion of the comprehensives the one-paragraph thesis statement and the form for nominating a supervisory committee must be submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee.
- The thesis proposal must be submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee within 6 months of the student's completion of the comprehensive examinations.
- Language requirements must be completed within 36 months of the start of the programme.

The advisory/supervisory committee must indicate on the annual or semi-annual report of full-time Ph.D. students those who do not meet these deadlines. In such cases, the supervisor is to indicate in an accompanying note whether progress is deemed unsatisfactory or whether there are extenuating circumstances.

In the latter case, new deadlines for the fulfillment of the requirements are to be indicated on the progress report form, and arrangements made for a new meeting of the committee and the filing of a new report immediately after the date of the revised deadline. Failure to meet the revised deadline will normally result in unsatisfactory progress being indicated.

The chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee is to review all reports and to ensure compliance with these regulations.

Guidelines for M.A. and Ph.D. Proposals

Thesis proposals should be structured around the following six headings. students may choose to incorporate the headings directly into their proposals, or simply to incorporate the information described under the headings without organizing the proposal explicitly under the six headings. An outline of proposed chapters is also useful.

1. Introduction
2. Research Questions
3. The scholarly context
4. Material
5. Method(s)/Perspective(s)/Mode of procedure
6. Bibliography

Introduction: The proposal should begin by clearly stating the subject of this thesis. A brief statement of the importance of the work and its relevance for the field of Religious Studies should follow.

Research Question: The proposal should make clear what questions the thesis will be posing and trying to answer. The proposal may also suggest a hypothesis that answers the questions.

The scholarly context: The proposal should make clear what is new in the proposed research in relation to earlier studies. The authors referred to here should be in the bibliography, but the bibliography should not be limited to works directly cited in the proposal (see below).

Material: In this section the student should make clear what it is that constitutes the primary data for the thesis. This may be texts or field research. In both cases the student needs to be specific. The student needs to show the committee that he/she knows what texts are important to the research or what questions will be asked in the field.

Method(s)/Perspective(s)/Mode of procedure: students should be able to show that they think about what they are doing in relation to how they're doing it. Obviously, not everyone will be engaged in extensive methodological discussions, but everyone will have a certain perspective. this section will show the committee that the student is aware of the fact that he or she is studying the chosen problem/question in a certain way and not in another. it will also give the student the chance to show the committee that the perspective or method chosen is better suited than any other method or perspective to accomplish the intended goal.

Bibliography: The bibliography should be carefully presented, with secondary sources separated from primary sources. sources dealing specifically with methodology may also be put in a separate section of the bibliography. This will make it easier for members of the committee to assess the value of the bibliography.

M.A. projects: The project proposal should also address all six categories. it should describe the area chosen for research, detail the purpose of the research, and discuss the scholarship on the topic. The bibliography should be carefully selected and the proposal needs to make clear the relevance of the items in the bibliography to the project. The project proposal must also indicate what shape the final written document will take.

* **The Graduate Affairs Committee normally meets during the last week of the month during term. Please note the “Thesis Proposal Approval” form which is available in the department website at <https://religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/resources/graduate-forms/guidelines-for-proposals-and-proposal-submission-form.pdf> must be completed, signed and submitted with your proposal.**

4. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

ADVISORY/SUPERVISORY COMMITTEES

The student’s advisory/supervisory committee is responsible for assisting the student in formulating the thesis or project proposal, advising the student as the research proceeds, and assessing its results.

The approval of all committee members is required before a thesis (or project) proposal can be submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee; the approval of a majority or supervisory committee members is required before a thesis (or project) can proceed to an oral defence. It is therefore imperative that the student not proceed at length on proposal or research work without its progress being reviewed and approved by the committee.

Committees are required to meet twice each year. Additional meetings may be requested by the principal advisor or supervisor (hereafter “chair”) of the committee or by the student.

The chair bears primary responsibility for the supervision of the student's programme. Other members of the committee lend their expertise and share responsibility for seeing that the student's work meets the standards of academic competency. The student normally submits his or her work to the chair, who is responsible for passing the work on to other members of the committee. Members of the committee are responsible for communicating their evaluation and comments to the chair as well as to the student. If a committee member recommends substantial revision of the work, the recommendation and its reasons should be communicated in writing to both the chair of the committee and the student.

If, in the opinion of the chair, the evaluation or recommendations of committee members show significant disagreement, the chair will arrange for a committee meeting in which the issues can be discussed. Unresolved disagreement shall be brought to the attention of the chair of Graduate Affairs and/or the chair of the department, who will attempt to mediate. The mediator will write up a summary of the discussions that follow, including any recommendations that are made; the summary is to be made available to the student. If resolution proves impossible, the mediator will recommend to the Graduate Affairs Committee the reconstitution of the student's committee. If this avenue is not sufficient, the student is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

A committee member who resigns from a committee should communicate the reasons for the resignation in writing to the chair of the committee and the student.

When all committee members are in agreement that a thesis (or project) proposal is satisfactory, the student is responsible for seeing that the proposal is initialed by members of the committee and submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee. When the supervisory committee has approved a thesis or project for oral defence, the supervisor informs the chair of the department in order to initiate defence proceedings.

Summary of Duties of M.A. and Ph.D. Advisory/Supervisory Committees

- Assist in the planning and approving of the student's course work and research; define major and minor requirements,
- Decide, within departmental regulations, on the timing of the comprehensive examinations and, where applicable, language and other examinations or projects.
- Maintain knowledge of the student's research activities and progress.
- Meet at least twice each year (Fall and Spring) with all students in residence, and report to the department on the above matters annually.
- Initiate appropriate action if the student's progress is not satisfactory. Any requirement that the student withdraw shall need approval of the department and the Faculty Committee on Graduate Admissions and Study.
- Act as internal examiners for the thesis and serve, where appropriate, as members of the final Ph.D. oral examination committee.

Duties of the Department

- Approve the composition and work of the advisory in supervisory committees.
- Review annually each student's course grades and research progress as reported by the committee.
- Conduct major and minor comprehensive examinations.
- Conduct language examinations.
- Name representatives to the final M.A. and Ph.D. oral examinations committees.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The University considers its graduate programme to operate on a twelve-month basis, and scholarships are given accordingly. Students should plan to pursue their studies for the entire year, taking no more than two weeks for vacation.

The summers are normally used to prepare for comprehensive examinations, to conduct thesis research, and to pursue language study. Summer courses in several languages are often available on campus.

STUDENT STATUS, CHANGE-OF-STATUS

The Graduate Calendar makes it clear that all graduate students who have not received degrees and who wish to be considered students in this University must register and pay fees for each year from their admission until the degree is awarded. This also applies to candidates who have finished their residence requirements but have not submitted their thesis.

Students may apply for various kinds of off-campus status; they all require the consultation of the advisory/supervisory committee, the department, and the Graduate School. Students who are in residence may be granted regular off-campus status to pursue study at another academic institution. In exceptional cases, students may be granted leaves-of-absence, during which time their status in the programme and funding are suspended.

Students who wish to assume any kind of off-campus status should first obtain the relevant information and forms from the School of Graduate Studies website <https://graduate.mcmaster.ca/resources> and then proceed directly to obtain the necessary approvals. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD STUDENTS ABSENT THEMSELVES FROM RESIDENCE WITHOUT SEEING THAT THEIR STATUS IN THE UNIVERSITY IS CLEAR.**

According to University regulations, a candidate whose work, in the judgment of the department, has not progressed satisfactorily may be asked to withdraw from the programme at any stage. The normal times for a thorough review of each candidate's work are at the end of the first year and after doctoral comprehensive examinations.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial support from the University is available to full-time students on a competitive basis. The "Plan for Graduate Education at McMaster" sets a minimum guaranteed funding for doctoral students (currently \$13,500 a year for four years).

University Scholarships

The standard graduate scholarships range between \$4,000 and \$9,500 and may be available to students holding full-time status for the first two years of the M.A. programme and the first four years of the Ph.D. program.

Outstanding students are eligible for additional university scholarships such as the Harry Lyman Hooker Senior Scholarship, the Ashbaugh and the Dalley Fellowship. The department is responsible for nominating candidates for these awards.

The Abby Goldblatt Memorial Scholarship

To be awarded to a graduate student who demonstrates academic excellence in the study of Early Judaism. The award will be made by the School of Graduate Studies on the recommendation of the Chair of the Department of Religious Studies.

Alvin Irwin Ogilvie Graduate Scholarship

To be awarded to a student registered in a Ph.D. program in the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences. The award is made annually by the Scholarships Committee of Graduate Council on the basis of departmental nominations.

The Julian F. Pas Memorial Scholarship in Chinese Religions

To be awarded to a student in a masters or doctoral program (Taoism, Chinese Folk Religion or Chinese Buddhism) in Chinese religions. The School of Graduate Studies will make the award on the recommendation of the chair of the department of religious studies.

The Passi Bursary

To be awarded to a graduate student who demonstrates financial need and is studying Hinduism and Jainism. The award will be made by the School of Graduate Studies on the recommendation of the Chair of the Department of Religious Studies.

The Krishna Sivaraman Memorial Scholarship

To be awarded to a student in the masters or doctoral program in Hinduism and Indian Philosophy. The school of graduate studies will award the scholarship on the recommendation of the chair of the department of religious studies, taking into consideration academic achievement and a demonstrated interest in Hinduism and Indian philosophy.

Teaching Assistantships

Many full-time students are employed as teaching or research assistants. The salary for this work (negotiated annually) is approximately \$5,978 per term for 2022. The maximum duration of guaranteed teaching assistantships is two years for M.A. students and four years for Ph.D. students.

Each student with a teaching assistantship will be assigned in September and/or January to work with one of the members of the faculty. Students with teaching assistantships are expected to work the equivalent of ten hours per week during the academic year.

External Awards

As a condition of retaining their McMaster Scholarship funds, all graduate students who are eligible are required to apply for appropriate external awards such as SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) and OGS (Ontario Graduate Scholarships). Application forms and further information will be available online in September. Further information about scholarships and awards will be communicated in September at our annual scholarship workshop. Information about scholarships and awards is posted regularly on the bulletin board outside the department office.

Student Assistantship Bursaries

There are some funds available for bursaries, awarded on the basis of financial need. Students apply

directly to Student Financial Aid.

Traveling Scholarships

Mary Margaret Scammel Travel Scholarship:

For a Religious Studies Graduate Student to support travel costs associated with thesis research or language study. Value \$1,000.00.

James F. Harvey and Helen S. Harvey Travel Scholarships:

Three scholarships of \$1,000.00 awarded for graduate students to engage in research requiring travel.

Graduate Students Association Travel Assistance Grants:

First priority is for research travel; second, for expenses incurred in attending a conference to present a paper, abstract or poster; third, For conference attendance. Application dates are generally in September, January, and May.

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Student Fellowships:

For graduate students to do research or language training in India.

The Freeman Family Foundation Bursary Fund for Study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Established in May 2000, this bursary is offered on an annual basis to members of the University at large. The highest priority is given to graduate students who would benefit from study at Hebrew University to complete their theses; second priority is given to graduate students at the pre-thesis stage, especially for language work. Graduate students may apply for sums up to a maximum of \$17,000 for a year's work at Hebrew University; smaller amounts are available for students who want to restrict their study to the summer. For further information, consult with members of the Biblical Field.

Limitations on Employment

Full-time graduate students are encouraged to limit time spent on employment both inside and outside the University. They may not be employed more than 10 hours per week (on an average in a term) for work that is paid through McMaster University. Exceptions to this rule are possible with the approval of the School of Graduate Studies. Students are referred to the regulations in the Graduate Calendar.

Graduate Diploma (Ph.D.) in Gender Studies and Feminist Research

This diploma is available to students enrolled in the Ph.D. program in religious studies. It is intended for students whose research is focused on gender studies, sexuality studies, or feminist research. The diploma aims to enhance the intellectual development and training of students already enrolled in doctoral programs by allowing them to combine disciplinary research with interdisciplinary scholarship from the fields of Gender and Feminist Studies. Students already pursuing Ph.D.'s may apply for the Graduate Diploma program during their first year of doctoral studies, to start in their second year. Occasionally, students may be allowed to begin the Graduate Diploma in their third year of the Ph.D., but no later

The diploma option add value to a standalone doctoral degree in a single discipline by providing concrete and sustained occasions for doctoral students to engage multiple scholarly and pedagogical approaches as these are taken up in seminar meeting and coursework, research symposia and thesis work.

Students completing the diploma will receive the notation “Completed Graduate Diploma in Gender Studies and Feminist Research” on their academic transcript in addition to the doctorate degree from their home graduate unit. Formalizing this additional qualification will help students to be more competitive as they apply for academic jobs in not only Women's and Gender Studies but also traditional disciplines, many of which intersect with and are enhanced by research and teaching in feminist and gender studies.

There are no additional fees (application or tuition) for this program. Further information can be found at the program website: <http://gsfr.mcmaster.ca/>

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

The letter of admission from the Dean of Graduate Studies specifies that students should arrive on campus before undergraduate classes begin (normally on the first Tuesday following Labour Day; See “Sessional Dates” on the University Website at <http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=25&navoid=4674>

Students holding teaching assistantships are expected to arrive the day after Labour Day.

All incoming graduate students and in course students are expected to attend an orientation session sponsored by the Department (details will be circulated). The McMaster Graduate Student Day is part of the orientation programme; all graduate students should be available to participate in the programme.

Incoming students should consult with the staff in the department office, UH 123, for registration details and other procedures. At that time students are assigned a desk in one of the basement offices of University Hall; a number of graduate students share each room. All students are given a mailbox outside the department office. Mailboxes should be checked frequently.

Much of the communication with students both by the Department and the University takes place via e-mail. Be sure to register your McMaster e-mail account as soon as you arrive on campus. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail daily.

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

There is an active Graduate Students Association (GSARS). Each fall GSARS elects an executive, two students to be representatives at department meetings, as well as students to serve on the Graduate Affairs Committee and Colloquium Committee. GSARS sponsors a variety of academic and social events during the year.

QUERIES AND ASSISTANCE

Although this Handbook seeks to cover most of the basic areas of the graduate programme, questions may arise at any stage in the programme. Students are encouraged to seek information and help as needed. Please note that the School of Graduate Studies Calendar is also an important source of information.

Doreen Drew is the Administrative Secretary for graduate affairs. Inquiries regarding procedures may be directed to her either in person in her office (UH B126B), by phone (ext. 23399) or by email to

relstud@mcmaster.ca.

Students having difficulties meeting deadlines or with any aspect of their programme are encouraged to discuss these difficulties with members of their committee. Students may also seek assistance or advice from the chair of the Department or the Chair of Graduate Affairs. These two faculty members can offer both formal and informal assistance depending on the needs of the student.

5. LIST OF COURSES

Not all of the courses listed below will be offered each year. The actual course offerings for the current year, with a brief description, can be found on our website. Half courses are designated with an asterisk.

ASIAN

ASIAN RELIGIONS

RS 6X06	Introductory Sanskrit	Staff
RS 6XI6	Intermediate Sanskrit	Staff
RS 6Y06	Introduction to Literary Chinese	Staff

GENERAL COURSES

RS *705	Special Readings in Asian Religions	Staff
RS *706	Topics in Sanskrit Texts	S. Clarke
RS *707	Tools and Methods for the Study of Asian Religions	J. Benn, S. Clarke, M. Rowe
RS *708	Topics in Asian Religions	Staff
RS *709	Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Asian Religions	M. Rowe

BUDDHISM

RS *711	Topics in Buddhist Thought and History	S. Clarke
RS *712	Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts I: Translated texts	J. Benn
RS *713	Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts II: Indigenous Writings	J. Benn
RS *714	Topics in Indian Buddhist Texts	S. Clarke
RS *715	Readings in Indian Buddhist Texts	S. Clarke
RS *716	Topics in Japanese Buddhism	S. Clarke, M. Rowe
RS *717	Readings in Japanese Buddhism	S. Clarke, M. Rowe
RS *718	Topics in Buddhism Studies: Recent Scholarship	J. Benn, S. Clarke, M. Rowe
RS *719	Topics in Modern and Contemporary Buddhism	M. Rowe

EAST ASIAN RELIGIONS

RS *721	Topics in East Asian Religions	J. Benn, S. Clarke, M. Rowe
RS *722	Topics in Japanese Religions	S. Clarke, M. Rowe
RS *723	Readings in Japanese Religions	S. Clarke, M. Rowe
RS *724	Topics in Taoism	J. Benn

RS *725	Readings in Taoist Texts	J. Benn
RS *726	Topics in Chinese Religions	J. Benn
RS *727	Readings in Chinese	J. Benn
RS *728	Readings in Academic Japanese	M. Rowe

BIBLICAL STUDIES

GENERAL COURSES

RS *730	Topics in the Relationship of Judaism and Christianity	Staff
RS *731	Topics in the Biblical Tradition	Staff
RS *732	Topics in the Theory of Interpretation	Staff
RS *733	Topics in Social History and Material Culture	Staff
RS *734	Special Readings in the Biblical Tradition	Staff

EARLY JUDIASM

RS *737	Readings in Hebrew I	Staff
RS *738	Readings in Hebrew II	Staff
RS *739	Readings in Aramaic Texts: Biblical Aramaic and Dead Sea Scrolls	Staff
RS *740	Readings in Aramaic Texts: Targum and Talmud	Staff
RS *741	Readings in Greek Jewish Literature	Staff
RS *742	Topics in the Dead Sea Scrolls	H. Tervantko
RS *743	Topics in Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha	H. Tervantko
RS *744	Topics in Rabbinic Judaism	Staff
RS *745	Topics in Philo and Hellenistic Judaism	H. Tervantko
RS *746	Topics in Early Jewish History	H. Tervantko
RS *747	Topics in Early Jewish Literature	H. Tervantko

EARLY CHRISTIANITY

RS *751	Readings in Gospel Literature I	M. Thiessen
RS *752	Readings in Gospel Literature II	M. Thiessen
RS *753	Readings in Early Christian Epistolography I	M. Thiessen
RS *754	Readings in Early Christian Epistolography II	M. Thiessen
RS *755	Readings in Early Christian Historiography I	M. Thiessen
RS *756	Readings in Early Christian Historiography II	M. Thiessen
RS *757	Topics in Gospel Literature	M. Thiessen
RS *758	Topics in Early Christian Epistolography	Staff
RS *759	Topics in Christian Origins	Staff
RS *760	Topics in Early Christian History	M. Thiessen
RS *761	Topics in the Early Christian Literature	M. Thiessen
RS *762	Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity: The Trinity	Staff
RS *763	Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of	Staff

	Late Antiquity: Christology	
RS *764	Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity: Themes	Staff
RS *765	Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity: Major Figures	Staff

WESTERN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

GENERAL COURSES

RS *769	Special Readings in Western Religious Traditions	Staff
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RELIGION AND POLITICS

RS *770	Topics in Ancient Political Philosophy	Z. Planinc
RS *771	Topics in Medieval Political Philosophy	Z. Planinc
RS *772	Topics in Modern Political Philosophy	Z. Planinc
RS *773	Critics of Modernity (Same as Pol. Sc. *754)	T. Kroeker, Z. Planinc, J. Seaman
RS *774	Topics in Religion and Literature	T. Kroeker, Z. Planinc
RS *775	Topics in Political Theology and Ethics	T. Kroeker
RS *776	Topics in Technology and Ethics	T. Kroeker
RS *777	Topics in Philosophy and Jewish Thought (Same as CSCT *777)	D. Hollander
RS *778	Topics in Modern Jewish Thought (Same as CSCT *778)	D. Hollander
RS *779	Phenomenology and Religious Experience II	D. Hollander
RS *792	Topics in Continental Philosophy and Religious Thought	D. Hollander, T. Kroeker

RELIGION AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

RS *709	Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Asian Religions	M. Rowe
RS *766	Islamic Fundamentalism (Same as Globalization 766)	L. Takim
RS *767	Islam in a Global World (Same as Globalization 767)	L. Takim
RS *780	Topics in Religion and Society (Same as Soc. *708)	Staff
RS *781	Introduction to the Anthropology of Religion (Same as Anthro *704)	Staff
RS *782	Diasporas, Transnationalism and Religious Identities (Same as Anthro 782 and Glob *782)	Staff
RS *783	Anthropological Approaches to Catholicism (Same as Anthro *784)	Staff
RS *784	Myth and Interpretation of Oral Tradition (Same as Anthro *784)	Staff
RS *785	Death: Rituals and Meanings in Cross-Cultural Context (Same as Anthro *799)	Staff
RS *786	Ritual and Symbolic Healing (Same as Anthro *796)	C. Rothenberg

RS *787	Topics in Belief and the Body	C. Rothenberg
RS *788	Topics in Anthropological Approaches in Islam (Same as Anthro *788)	C. Rothenberg
RS *789	Topics in Gender and Feminist Theory and Religious Studies	C. Rothenberg

WESTERN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

RS *762	Topics in Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity: The Trinity	Staff
RS *763	Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity: Christology	Staff
RS *764	Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity: Themes	Staff
RS *765	Topics in the Christian Literature and Thought of Late Antiquity: Major Figures	Staff
RS *766	Islamic Fundamentalism (Same as Globalization 766)	L. Takim
RS *767	Islam in a Global World (Same as Globalization 767)	L. Takim
RS *774	Topics in Religion and Literature	T. Kroeker, Z. Planinc
RS *775	Topics in Political Theology and Ethics	T. Kroeker
RS *777	Topics in Philosophy and Jewish Thought (Same as CSCT *777)	D. Hollander
RS *778	Topics in Modern Jewish Thought (Same as CSCT *778)	D. Hollander
RS *779	Phenomenology and Religious Experience II	D. Hollander
RS *790	Topics in Western Religious Thought	Staff
RS *791	Topics in Philosophical Theology	T. Kroeker
RS *792	Topics in Continental Philosophy and Religious Thought	D. Hollander, T. Kroeker
RS *793	Topics in Religious Ethics	T. Kroeker
RS *794	Topics in Augustine and Augustinians	T. Kroeker
RS *795	Topics in Modern Christian Thought: Themes	Staff
RS *796	Topics in Modern Christian Thought: Theologians	Staff
RS *797	Topics in German Judaism	D. Hollander
RS *798	Phenomenology and Religious Experience I: Introduction to Phenomenology	D. Hollander

SPECIAL COURSES

RS *600	Studies in Religion	Staff
RS *700	Topics in Religious Studies	Staff
RS *701	Issues in the Study of Religions	Staff
RS *782	Diaspora, Transnationalism and Religious Identities	Staff