MASTER OF ARTS
PHILOSOPHY
SPECIALIZATION IN WOMEN’S STUDIES

The Department of Philosophy offers MA (with or without thesis) and PhD programs in Philosophy. The programs are offered in English and French. According to the University’s policy, students may pursue their studies in the official language of their choice.

The Department participates in the collaborative programs in Women’s Studies (at the MA level), in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (at the MA level) and in Canadian Studies (at the PhD level). For more information on these programs, see “Admission Requirements.”

The Collaborative program in Women’s Studies at the master’s level is designed for students from selected disciplines in arts, education, health sciences, law, social sciences, and counselling and spirituality (Saint Paul University), who have an interest in women’s studies. These students have the opportunity to combine advanced studies in their primary program with analyses from a women’s studies perspective. The degree awarded is a master’s degree in the primary program with a “specialization in Women’s Studies”.

The programs are governed by the general regulations (http://www.grad.uottawa.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=1807) in effect for graduate studies.

Admission Requirements

For the most accurate and up to date information on application deadlines, language tests and other admission requirements, please visit the specific requirements (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/apply/specific-requirements) webpage.

To be admitted to the MA program a candidate must have an honours BA in Philosophy (or the equivalent) with a minimum "B" average. The Department reserves the right to impose a preliminary examination.

Candidates lacking the necessary background may be admitted to a qualifying program.

An application dossier must include official transcripts and two letters of recommendation. For the master’s with thesis, the dossier must also include a description of the intended field of research, and a sample of written work in philosophy (15-25 pp.).

Collaborative Programs

The Department of Philosophy is a participating unit in the collaborative programs in Women’s Studies (master’s level only) and in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (master’s level only).

The collaborative program Women’s Studies has been established for students wishing to enrich their training in philosophy by including an interdisciplinary component in Women’s studies. The specific requirements of the collaborative program include two core courses and a thesis on a topic related to Women’s studies. Only one of the core “FEM” courses will be counted for unit towards the requirements of the master’s in philosophy.

Students should indicate in their initial application for admission to the master’s program in Philosophy that they wish to be accepted into the collaborative program. For the collaborative program in Women’s Studies, requests submitted following admission will be considered on an exceptional basis.

To be accepted in the collaborative program in women’s studies at the master’s level, applicants must first be accepted to the master’s program in a participating program. Successful applicants will normally hold an honours degree or the equivalent and have a minimum average of 70 per cent (B). They must also have a background in women’s studies, that is, a minimum of two undergraduate level courses or one graduate level course on women, gender, feminism or sexualities. Students who do not have an adequate background may be eligible to our Special Policy for Admissions.

The letter of intention submitted with the application should include a clear account of the "women’s studies" dimension in the proposed topic of research.

Language Requirements

Proficiency in both French and English is strongly encouraged so that students may take advantage of the full range of activities – lectures, personal contacts, and courses — available in the Department (graduate courses are normally not duplicated in the two languages).

In accordance with the University of Ottawa regulation, students have a right to produce their work, their thesis, and to answer examination questions in French or in English.

Program Requirements

An accelerated route leading from the MA program into the PhD program is available (see PhD Program).

Master’s with Collaborative Specialization (Thesis)

The Master’s with Collaborative Specialization (Thesis) consists of 5 (one-term) courses, an approved thesis project, and a thesis, including defence.

Students admitted to the collaborative program in women’s studies at the master’s level must meet the requirements for a master’s degree in their primary program as well as the requirements of the women’s studies program. Normally, the women’s studies courses are recognized as partial fulfillment of the requirements of the student’s primary program, in which case the passing grade in the relevant FEM course or courses is the same as that specified for the primary program.

Compulsory Courses (PHI):

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Note(s)

1 MA candidates must also complete a proficiency requirement in the second official language. This requirement can be completed in one of three ways:
   • Passing (50%) the FLS 1000 exam; OR
   • Completing 6 units of FLS courses at your level (as determined by the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute); OR
   • Successfully completing a Philosophy graduate seminar given in French. (N.B. As per University regulations, students may write examinations and papers in the official language of their choice.)

2 Students must complete the two compulsory courses before their first enrollment for the thesis.

3 The thesis proposal must be approved by the Women’s Studies Graduate Committee as well as by the primary program. Usually the thesis proposal is submitted to women’s studies by the end of the third term of the first year of studies. For the primary programs that do not require a proposal, students must still submit a proposal to the Women’s Studies Graduate Committee.

4 The thesis must be on a topic related to women, gender, feminism or sexualities. The proposed topic must be approved by the Women’s Studies Graduate Committee as well as by the student’s primary program. The thesis must demonstrate knowledge of feminist scholarship in the field or fields appropriate to the topic, and of feminist methodologies where applicable.

5 The thesis supervisor must possess Women's Studies and/or feminist expertise. One of the examiners (for the thesis) must be a person approved by the Women’s Studies Graduate Committee.

Duration of Program
Students are expected to fulfill all requirements within two years. The maximum time permitted is four years from the date of initial enrollment in the program.

Residence
The residence requirement for students admitted on a full-time basis is three terms. It is possible to prepare for the MA degree entirely on a part-time basis. A part-time student can take no more than two courses per term.

Minimum Standards
The passing grade in all courses is C+. Students who fail two courses (equivalent to 6 units) must withdraw from the program.

Research
Research Fields & Facilities
Located in the heart of Canada’s capital, a few steps away from Parliament Hill, the University of Ottawa is among Canada’s top 10 research universities.

uOttawa focuses research strengths and efforts in four Strategic Areas of Development in Research (SADRs):
   • Canada and the World
   • Health
   • e-Society
   • Molecular and Environmental Sciences

With cutting-edge research, our graduate students, researchers and educators strongly influence national and international priorities.

Research at the Faculty of Arts
The Faculty of Arts is proud of the state of the art research conducted by its professors. In the spirit of showcasing its research to the university community as well as to the general public, the Faculty has created three activities: Dean’s Lecture Series, Treasures of the Library, and Excellence Lectures.

Facilities, Research Centres and Institutes at the Faculty of Arts

For more information, refer to the list of faculty members and their research fields on Uniweb.

IMPORTANT: Candidates and students looking for professors to supervise their thesis or research project can also consult the website of the faculty or department (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/academic-unit-contact-information) of their program of choice. Uniweb does not list all professors authorized to supervise research projects at the University of Ottawa.

Courses

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PHI 5759 Philosophie allemande II (3 crédits)
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PHI 5771 Philosophie sociale et politique II (3 crédits)
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PHI 5775 Philosophie de l'histoire II (3 crédits)
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PHI 5776 Philosophie de l'histoire III (3 crédits)
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PHI 5778 Philosophie de l'art III (3 crédits)
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PHI 6103 Selected Problems III (3 units)
Course Component: Seminar

PHI 6501 Thèmes et problèmes de philosophie I (3 crédits)
Volet : Séminaire

PHI 6502 Thèmes et problèmes de philosophie II (3 crédits)
Volet : Séminaire

PHI 6503 Thèmes et problèmes de philosophie III (3 crédits)
Volet : Séminaire

PHI 6904 Étude dirigée / Directed Study (3 crédits / 3 units)
Travail à préparer sous la direction d'un membre du corps professoral du département. Préalable : permission du comité des études supérieures. / Paper to be prepared under the direction of a professor in the department.

PHI 6995 Mémoire et recherche (MA) / Major Research Paper (MA)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Prerequisite: Paper to be prepared under the direction of a professor in the department. Permission of the Department is required.

PHI 6996 Mémoire et recherche (MA) / Major Research Paper (MA)
Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

PHI 6997 Mémoire et recherche (MA) / Major Research Paper (MA)
Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

PHI 6999 Recherche dirigée (MA) / Directed Research (MA)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

PHI 8995 Mémoire de recherche (PhD) / Major Reserach Paper (PhD)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

PHI 8998 Examen de candidature / Candidacy Examination (PhD)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

PHI 8999 Recherche dirigée (PhD) / Directed Research (PhD)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

FEM 5103 Feminist Methodologies (3 units)
Methodologies developed in Women's Studies. Critical examination from both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Course Component: Seminar

FEM 5300 Feminist Theories (3 units)
Approaches to contemporary feminist theory. Critical examination from both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Course Component: Seminar

Permission of the Department is required.

FEM 5503 Méthodologies féministes (3 crédits)
Méthodologies élaborées en études des femmes. Examen critique dans une perspective à la fois pluridisciplinaire et interdisciplinaire.

Volet : Séminaire

Permission of the Department is required.

FEM 5700 Théories féministes (3 crédits)
Différentes approches de la théorie féministe contemporaine. Examen critique dans une perspective à la fois pluridisciplinaire et interdisciplinaire.

Volet : Séminaire

FEM 6100 Special Topics in Women's Studies (3 units)
Course Component: Seminar
FEM 6101 Gender, Power and Representations (3 units)
This course analyses the diverse body of feminist scholarship theorizing conceptions of gender, power and representation. Examining the construction and representation of gender/sex differences, the course explores the power relations inherent in these representations, while also examining how gender roles and expectations are linked to representations of class, race, sexuality, age, nationality and ability.
Course Component: Seminar
Prerequisites: FEM 5103 and FEM 5300

FEM 6102 Women, Rights and Citizenship in a Globalized World (3 units)
This course examines women's rights and citizenship; gender and development; and gender, migration and health in the context of globalization. Topics include the following: mainstreaming gender and health development; initiatives bringing feminist Southern voices across the world; health consequences of the massive incorporation of Third World women into a transnational labour force; women's agency and resistance; social capital and pluralism in health services and health care.
Course Component: Seminar
Prerequisites: FEM 5103 and FEM 5300

FEM 6103 Directed Readings (3 units)
Course Component: Lecture

FEM 6500 Thèmes spéciaux en études des femmes (3 crédits)
Volet : Cours magistral

FEM 6501 Rapports sociaux de sexe, pouvoir et représentations (3 crédits)
Ce cours analyse les diverses théories féministes qui visent à formaliser les concepts de genre, de pouvoir et de représentation. Les représentations des différences entre les genres/les sexes y sont abordées sous l'angle de leur construction sociale, ainsi que des rapports de pouvoir qui leur sont intrinsèquement liés. Le cours examinera également la façon dont les rôles et les attentes quant au genre sont aussi façonnés par des représentations concernant la classe, « la race » et l'ethnicié, la sexualité, l'âge, la nationalité et la présence/l'absence de handicap.
Volet : Séminaire

FEM 6502 Femmes, droits et citoyenneté dans un monde globalisé (3 crédits)
Ce cours englobe les domaines d'études connexes touchant aux droits des femmes et à la citoyenneté : genre et développement international; genre, migrations et santé dans un contexte mondialisé. Des sujets variés y sont abordés, qu'il s'agisse de l'intégration des rapports sociaux de sexe dans le développement de la santé, des initiatives novatrices permettant de faire entendre les voix féministes du sud ou encore des conséquences sur la santé de l'enrôlement massif des femmes du Tiers monde dans un marché du travail multinational et mondialisé. On s'intéressera aussi à l'agentivité et aux résistances de ces femmes, à leur capital social et au pluralisme en matière de services et de soins de santé. Préalables : FEM 5503, FEM 5700.
Volet : Séminaire
Préalables : FEM 5503 et FEM 5700

FEM 6503 Lectures dirigées (3 crédits)
Volet : Cours magistral

FEM 6997 Projet de thèse de maîtrise / Master's Thesis Proposal
Master's Thesis Proposal
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Préalables : FEM 5503, FEM 5700 et 6 crédits de la banque de cours au choix. / Prerequisites: FEM 5103, FEM 5300 and 6 credit from the list of electives.

FEM 6999 Mémoire / Research Paper (6 crédits / 6 units)
Préalables : FEM 5503, FEM 5700 et 12 crédits de la banque de cours au choix. / Prerequisites: FEM 5103, FEM 5300 and 12 units from the list of electives.

FEM 8101 Seminar in Women's Studies (3 units)
This seminar deals with professional development (the preparation of grant applications, conference papers and articles), and reviews the central issues and debates of the discipline.
Course Component: Seminar
Prerequisites: FEM 5103 and FEM 5300. Reserved for students registered in the PhD program in Women's Studies.

FEM 8501 Séminaire en études des femmes (3 crédits)
Ce séminaire porte sur le développement professionnel (préparation de demandes de subvention, conférences, articles) et sur les enjeux principaux de la discipline.
Volet : Séminaire

FEM 9997 Projet de thèse de doctorat / Doctoral Thesis Proposal
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Préalable: FEM 9998 / Prerequisite: FEM 9998

FEM 9998 Examen de synthèse / Comprehensive Examination
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research