

MASTER OF ARTS RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Department of Classics and Religious Studies offers programs of study leading to the degrees of Master of Arts (MA) in Religious Studies and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Religious Studies.

Objectives and Methods

The Department of Classics and Religious Studies (sector: Religious Studies) focuses on the study of the religious phenomenon through teaching and research in the same manner and on the same level as any other category of facts accessible to human experience and observation.

The disciplines that play a role in the study of religions are primarily of a historical, sociological, psychological and anthropological nature. Such a study must take into account the plurality of religious traditions and expressions in society and examine the relationships among them.

Research on the meaning of religious phenomena is accomplished through analysis and comparison of the various means of religious expression, both in the past and present. No tradition is considered normative.

Areas of Research

The programs focus on religions in Canada, including Amerindian and Inuit traditions, and on religions in the comparative cultural context as well as religions in the Graeco-Roman World. The comparative cultural approach provides an opportunity to explore religious phenomena across different religious traditions expressly within their specific cultural contexts. The program favours the methods of anthropology, history, psychology and sociology.

The Department participates in collaborative programs in Women's Studies and in Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the MA level. For more information on these programs, see "Apply now (<http://www.grad.uottawa.ca/default.aspx?tabid=1624&Org=EBC>)".

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.

Applicants who hold a bachelor with honours in Religious Studies or the equivalent with at least second-class standing may be admitted to the master's program. Those who do not have an honours degree in religious studies may be admitted to a qualifying year during which they complete the requirements normally included in the honours program. The qualifying year comprises a minimum of five courses equivalent to selected compulsory courses of the honours program at the University of Ottawa.

Official applications for admission should be submitted by the deadlines listed in effect for graduate studies. Applications received after a deadline will be considered only if positions are available.

As part of their application, applicants must submit a statement (1-2 pages) describing their research interests.

All applicants must be able to understand speak, and write either English or French proficiently. Applicants whose first language is neither English nor French must provide proof of proficiency in one or the other. The list of acceptable tests is indicated in the "Admission" section of the general regulations in effect for graduate studies.

In accordance with the University of Ottawa regulation, assignments, examinations, research papers and theses can be produced in either English or French.

Program Requirements

Requirements for this program have been modified. Please consult the 2022-2023 calendars (<https://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/archives/>) for the previous requirements.

MA with Thesis

The master's program with thesis consists of 18 units in courses and directed studies, and the writing and defence of a thesis.

Compulsory Courses:

3 course units from:	3 Units
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SRS 5115 Seminar in Religious Studies	
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SRS 5915 Seminar in Religious Studies	
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6 elective course units in religious studies at the graduate level	6 Units
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3 additional course units or a directed study in religious studies at the graduate level	3 Units
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Thesis Proposal:

SRS 5928 Thesis Proposal	3 Units
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Literature Review:

SRS 7988 Literature Review	3 Units
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Thesis:

THM 7999 Master's Thesis	
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Students are allowed to enroll for a maximum of 15 units per term in courses or seminar work and/or directed studies at the master's level.

Graduate students are allowed to take undergraduate courses for no more than one third of their course work, provided they complete additional work to the satisfaction of the professor.

Literature Review

Students must complete a directed study (SRS 7988) on the scholarly literature in the field of their research project. This literature review should be broader than, and does not replace, the more specific review of literature that normally forms part of a thesis or research paper. Students survey and discuss the literature in a paper approximately 25 pages in length. The reading list must be approved in advance by the student's thesis supervisor. The paper is evaluated S/NS by the professor directing the study and one other professor. Instructions regarding the literature review can be obtained from the Director of Graduate Studies in the department.

Thesis

After consultation with the research supervisor and not later than the second term of studies, the student must present a thesis topic to the Graduate Studies Committee for approval.

Before the end of the first year of studies, the thesis project must be presented for examination and discussion at a colloquium attended by professors and students of the department. After the colloquium, the project must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee for approval. Instructions regarding the colloquium and the thesis project can be obtained from the Director of Graduate Studies in the department.

For additional information on deadlines and on the writing, submission, examination, and revision of the thesis, please consult the general regulations in effect for graduate studies as well the section on "Thesis and Research Paper" (<http://www.grad.uottawa.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=1372>).

Colloquium

Participation in the department's regular research colloquia is compulsory for all enrolled graduate students.

MA with Research Paper

The master's program with research paper consists of 24 units in courses and directed studies, and a research paper (6 units).

Compulsory Courses:

3 course units from: 3 Units

SRS 5115 Seminar in Religious Studies

SRS 5915 Seminar in Religious Studies

12 elective course units in religious studies at the graduate level 12 Units

6 additional course units or a directed study in religious studies at the graduate level 6 Units

Literature Review:

SRS 7988 Literature Review 3 Units

Research Paper:

MRP 6999 Major Research Paper

Students are allowed to enroll for a maximum of 15 units per term in courses or seminar work and/or directed studies at the master's level.

Graduate students are allowed to take undergraduate courses for no more than one third of their course work, provided they complete additional work to the satisfaction of the professor.

Research Paper

The research paper, which is worth six units, is a critical study of approximately 40 pages directed by a full-time professor of religious studies chosen by the student. Enrollment for this research paper (MRP 6999) should be done following approval by the professor selected. The paper will be evaluated by the professor who directed it and by another professor appointed by the department. This paper should demonstrate the student's research potential and ability to investigate a problem in depth.

Literature Review

Students must complete a directed study (SRS 7988) on the scholarly literature in the field of their research project. This literature review should be broader than, and does not replace, the more specific review of

literature that normally forms part of a thesis or research paper. Students survey and discuss the literature in a paper approximately 25 pages in length. The reading list must be approved in advance by the student's thesis supervisor. The paper is evaluated S/NS by the professor directing the study and one other professor. Instructions regarding the literature review can be obtained from the Director of Graduate Studies in the department.

Colloquium

Participation in the department's regular research colloquia is compulsory for all enrolled graduate students.

Transfer from Master's to PhD

Students enrolled in the MA program in Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa may be allowed to transfer to the PhD program. For additional information, please consult the "Admission" section of the PhD program.

The transfer to the PhD must be completed by the end of the fourth term following initial enrollment in the MA program. The total number of units to be completed for the Master's and PhD combined is 30 units.

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.

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 at the University of Ottawa

Located in the heart of Canada's capital, a few steps away from Parliament Hill, the University of Ottawa ranks among Canada's top 10 research universities. Our research is founded on excellence, relevance and impact and is conducted in a spirit of equity, diversity and inclusion.

Our research community thrives in four strategic areas:

- Creating a sustainable environment
- Advancing just societies
- Shaping the digital world
- Enabling lifelong health and wellness

From advancing healthcare solutions to tackling global challenges like climate change, the University of Ottawa's researchers are at the forefront of innovation, making significant contributions to society and beyond.

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

- Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française (<http://arts.uottawa.ca/crccf/>),
- Institute of Indigenous Research and Studies (<http://arts.uottawa.ca/canada/en/>),
- Institute for Science, Society and Policy (<http://issp.uottawa.ca/en/>),
- Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) (<http://olbi.uottawa.ca/>)
- Morisset Library (<http://biblio.uottawa.ca/en/morisset-library/>).

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

SRS 5101 Second Temple Judaism (3 units)

Central questions and recent developments in the study of Judaism in the period of the Second Temple.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5102 Psychoanalysis and Religion (3 units)

Psychoanalytic thought relating to religion since the work of Sigmund Freud; therapeutic traditions and theories derived from the writings of Melanie Klein, D.W. Winnicott, W.R.D. Fairbairn and Jacques Lacan.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5103 Freud, Jung and Religion (3 units)

An examination of Sigmund Freud's and Carl Jung's writings pertaining to religion and mythology.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5107 Origins of Christianity (3 units)

Current questions and recent developments in the study of the origins of Christianity.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5108 Psychedelics: Interdisciplinary Survey of Psychedelic Studies (3 units)

An examination of the therapeutic, spiritual, and ritual uses of entheogens and psychedelics cross-culturally and throughout human history.

Course Component: Lecture

SRS 5109 Psychedelics, Politics and Harm Reduction (3 units)

A study of harm-reduction approaches and differentiation among substances on the basis of public health, with an emphasis on human rights and social concerns.

Course Component: Lecture

SRS 5110 Sacred Plant Medicines and Spirituality (3 units)

The study of sacred plants (ayahuasca, peyote, etc.) from an interdisciplinary perspective. An historical and socio-cultural overview of shamanism, ritual, and religion. A balance between academic and practitioner knowledge will be promoted.

Course Component: Lecture

SRS 5115 Seminar in Religious Studies (3 units)

An orientation to the study of religion at an advanced level.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5116 Current Approaches to the Study of Religion (3 units)

The methodological terrain of the current study of religion: the history, theoretical and methodological contributions, and influence of various approaches.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5305 Religion and Society in Cross-Cultural Analysis (3 units)

Comparative sociological analysis of the relations between religion and society in different cultures and regions.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5320 Religion and Anthropology: Selected Topics (3 units)

Major theories and debates in anthropological analyses of religion and the associated methodology of ethnography.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 5502 Religions africaines (3 crédits)

Étude des religions et cultures africaines dans leurs dimensions politiques, économiques, conflictuelles et identitaires, depuis les réalités ancestrales et les cultes traditionnels jusqu'au foisonnement des spiritualités contemporaines.

Volet : Séminaire

SRS 5520 Religion et anthropologie : Thèmes choisis (3 crédits)

Théories et débats à la base des analyses anthropologiques du religieux, et de la méthodologie ethnographique dont elles sont inséparables.

Volet : Séminaire

SRS 5901 Histoire des sciences des religions / History of Religious Studies (3 crédits / 3 units)

Analyse historique des théories et des approches méthodologiques de l'étude de la religion; développement institutionnel des sciences des religions. / Analysis of theories and methodological approaches in the historical study of religion; the institutional development of religious studies.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5902 Religious text and Narratives / Religious text and Narratives (3 crédits / 3 units)

Approches actuelles dans l'étude des textes et récits religieux. Études d'aspects tels que l'oralité, l'intertextualité, l'expression, la réception et l'idéologie. / Current approaches to the study of religious texts and narratives, exploring such aspects as orality, intertextuality, performance, reception, and ideology.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5903 Religious Rites and Symbols / Religious Rites and Symbols (3 crédits / 3 units)

Approches actuelles dans l'étude des rites et symboles religieux. Étude de la dynamique du symbolisme, de la corporalité, de la communauté, de l'expression et de l'identité. / Current approaches to the study of religious rites and symbols, exploring the dynamics of symbolism, embodiment, performance, community, and identity.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5915 Séminaire en sciences des religions / Seminar in Religious Studies (3 crédits / 3 units)

Introduction approfondie à l'étude savante du religieux. / An orientation to the study of religion at an advanced level.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5918 Religion, art et culture / Religion, Art and Culture (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude de la représentation du religieux dans les arts (arts visuels, musique, théâtre, littérature, cinéma) ou de la contribution des arts à la religion. / An examination of the representation of religion in the arts (visual art, music, drama, literature, and film) or of the contribution of the arts to religion.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5920 Approches actuelles dans l'étude de la religion / Current Approaches to the Study of Religion (3 crédits / 3 units)

Le domaine méthodologique de l'étude contemporaine de la religion, y compris l'historicité, les contributions théoriques ou méthodologiques et l'influence de diverses approches. / The methodological terrain of the current study of religion: the history, theoretical and methodological contributions, and influence of various approaches.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5923 Les déesses et les femmes dans le mythe et le symbole / Goddesses and Women in Myth and Symbol (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude des théoriciens actuels qui fondent leur analyse critique de l'idéologie et de la culture sur les représentations féminines dans l'imagerie religieuse. / An examination of the work of current theorists who make use of female representations in religious imagery for the purpose of critical analysis of ideology and culture.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5924 Le judaïsme du second temple / Second Temple Judaism (3 crédits / 3 units)

Questions essentielles et développements récents dans l'étude du judaïsme du Second Temple. / Central questions and recent developments in the study of Judaism in the period of the Second Temple.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5925 Origines du christianisme / Origins of Christianity (3 crédits / 3 units)

Questions actuelles et développements récents dans l'étude des origines du christianisme. / Current questions and recent developments in the study of the origins of Christianity.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5926 Religion dans l'antiquité tardive / Religion in Late Antiquity (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude de la religion dans le monde méditerranéen de l'Antiquité tardive, en particulier des questions de transformation religieuse, de discours, de conflit, de pluralisme et d'identité. / An examination of religion in the Mediterranean world in Late Antiquity, with particular attention to religious transformation, discourse, conflict, pluralism, and identity.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5927 Traditions chamaniques / Shamanic Traditions (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude anthropologique des visions du monde chamanique et des religions utilisant la transe, ainsi que des pratiques rituelles, thérapeutiques ou artistiques qui y sont associées. / Anthropological study of shamanic worldviews and trance-based religions, and the associated ritual, therapeutic and artistic practices they inform.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 5928 Projet de thèse / Thesis Proposal (3 crédits / 3 units)

La planification et réalisation d'une thèse : définition d'un cadre théorique, formulation de la problématique, mise au point de la méthodologie, détermination des hypothèses et de l'argumentation, préparation d'une description détaillée du projet de thèse, présentation du projet dans un colloque, évaluation et approbation déontologiques, planification et exécution de la recherche et de la rédaction. / The planning and implementation of a thesis: establishing a theoretical framework, formulating the question, refining the methodology, defining the hypotheses and lines of argumentation, preparing a detailed description of the thesis project, presenting the project in a colloquium, obtaining ethics approval, planning and carrying out the research and writing.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

Préalables : SRS 5115/SRS 5915 or SRS 8115/SRS 8915. Réservé aux étudiants inscrits à un programme avec thèse. / Prerequisites: SRS 5115/SRS 5915 or SRS 8115/SRS 8915. Restricted to students registered in a program with thesis.

SRS 5999 Mémoire / Research Paper (6 crédits / 6 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

SRS 6100 Religion and Law (3 units)

An examination of the ways in which law defines and regulates religion, focusing especially on the treatment of minority religious groups and the concept of religious diversity.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 6101 Religion and Human Rights (3 units)

An examination of the intersection of human rights regimes and the ways in which they define and delimit religion in the context of current issues.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 6900 Étude comparative du religieux / Comparative Study of Religion (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude comparative d'un thème ou d'un aspect du religieux tel qu'il se manifeste dans diverses cultures. / A comparative study of a theme or aspect of religion as manifested in diverse cultures.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6905 Religion et société / Religion & Society (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude de diverses perspectives méthodologiques et théoriques s'appliquant à la dynamique entre religion et société. / An examination of the dynamic between religion and society through a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6906 Religion et psychologie / Religion and Psychology (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude de théories psychologiques actuelles telles que la psychologie critique, la psychologie des profondeurs et la psychologie de l'ego, et de leur rapport aux sciences des religions. / An examination of current psychological theories, such as critical psychology, depth psychology, and ego psychology, as they relate to topics in religious studies.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6907 Thèmes choisis en christianisme / Selected Topic in Christianity (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude d'un sujet particulier concernant le christianisme, circonscrit dans un cadre temporel, géographique ou thématique. / Examination of a specific topic in Christianity, defined temporally, geographically or thematically.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6913 Thèmes choisis en histoire des religions au Canada / Selected Topics in the History of Religions in Canada (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude approfondie des aspects particuliers de l'histoire des religions dans un contexte canadien. / An in-depth examination of particular aspects of the history of religions in a Canadian context.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6915 Systèmes religieux des Amérindiens et des Inuit / Amerindian and Inuit Religions (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude de l'expression et de la conceptualisation de la religion chez les Amérindiens et les Inuits. / An examination of the expression and conceptualization of religion in Amerindian and Inuit cultures.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6920 Les religions dans le contexte mondial / Religions in a Global Context (3 crédits / 3 units)

Analyse critique des formes, des concepts et du contenu des religions dans le contexte mondial; théories et débats actuels en sciences des religions. / Critical examination of the forms, concepts, and content of religions in a global context; current theories and discussions in religious studies.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6921 La religion dans le Canada d'aujourd'hui / Religion in Contemporary Canada (3 crédits / 3 units)

La religion au Canada depuis la Deuxième Guerre mondiale; analyses sociologiques, anthropologiques ou historiques. / Religion in Canada since the Second World War; sociological, anthropological or historical analyses.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6922 Thèmes choisis en judaïsme / Topic Judaism (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude approfondie d'un sujet particulier relevant du judaïsme, depuis les traditions rabbiniques jusqu'à la vie des juifs d'aujourd'hui. / A close examination of a specific topic in Judaism from Rabbinic traditions to contemporary Jewish life.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6923 Religions de l'Asie / Religions Asia (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude d'un ou plusieurs systèmes religieux de l'Asie, à partir de théories et méthodes actuelles en sciences des religions, telles que les approches interprétivistes, matérialistes, phénoménologiques, historiques, philosophiques, ethnographiques, poststructurales, postcoloniales, etc. / An exploration of one or more religious systems of Asia, using current theoretical and methodological approaches in religious studies (e.g., interpretivist, materialist, phenomenological, historical, philosophical, ethnographic, poststructural, postcolonial, etc.).

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6924 La religion dans la pensée féministe actuelle / Religion and Current Feminist Thought (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude de l'influence des théories féministes actuelles sur les méthodes et théories en sciences des religions. / An examination of the influence of current feminist theory on methods and theories in religious studies.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6925 Genre et religion / Gender and Religion (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude des débats entourant la notion de genre comme catégorie d'analyse dans les sciences des religions. / An examination of developments within religious studies pertaining to the use of gender as a category of analysis.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 6980 Étude dirigée I / Directed Studies I (3 crédits / 3 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Permission du Département est requise. / Permission of the Department is required.

SRS 7080 Étude dirigée / Directed Study II (6 crédits / 6 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Permission du Département est requise. / Permission of the Department is required.

SRS 7988 Recension des écrits - M.A. / Literature Review (3 crédits / 3 units)

Vue d'ensemble de la littérature savante du champ d'études dans lequel se situe le mémoire ou la thèse de maîtrise. Rapport écrit à évaluer par le professeur qui l'a dirigé plus un autre professeur. Évalué S (satisfaisant) ou NS (non satisfaisant). / Review of the scholarly literature in the field of study in which the master's research paper or thesis is situated. Paper to be evaluated by the professor who supervised it and another professor. Evaluated S (Satisfactory) / NS (Not satisfactory).

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Préalable : SRS 5115 ou SRS 5915. / Prerequisite: SRS 5115 or SRS 5915.

SRS 8015 Séminaire en sciences religieuses (PhD) / Seminar in Religious Studies (PhD) (6 crédits / 6 units)

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

SRS 8016 Travaux dirigés II / Supervised Research II (6 crédits / 6 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Permission du Département est requise. / Permission of the Department is required.

SRS 8115 Seminar in Religious Studies (3 units)

An orientation to the study of religion at an advanced level.

Course Component: Seminar

SRS 8915 Séminaire en sciences des religions / Seminar in Religious Studies (3 crédits / 3 units)

Introduction approfondie à l'étude savante du religieux. / An orientation to the study of religion at an advanced level.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

SRS 8916 Travaux dirigés I / Supervised Research (3 crédits / 3 units)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
Permission du Département est requise. / Permission of the Department is required.

SRS 8928 Projet de thèse / Thesis Proposal (3 crédits / 3 units)

La planification et réalisation d'une thèse : définition d'un cadre théorique, formulation de la problématique, mise au point de la méthodologie, détermination des hypothèses et de l'argumentation, préparation d'une description détaillée du projet de thèse, présentation du projet dans un colloque, évaluation et approbation déontologiques, planification et exécution de la recherche et de la rédaction. / The planning and implementation of a thesis: establishing a theoretical framework, formulating the question, refining the methodology, defining the hypotheses and lines of argumentation, preparing a detailed description of the thesis project, presenting the project in a colloquium, obtaining ethics approval, planning and carrying out the research and writing.

Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar

Préalables ou concomitants: SRS 8115 ou SRS 8915. Réservé aux étudiants inscrits à un programme avec thèse. / Prerequisites or corequisites: SRS 8115 or SRS 8915. Restricted to students registered in a program with thesis.

SRS 9998 Examen de synthèse (Ph.D.) / Comprehensive Examination (PhD)

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research