



Cyclical Program Review Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan for Academic Programs Offered by the School of Religion

Programs Reviewed: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Religious Studies (Major, Medial)
Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies (General/Minor)
Master of Arts in Religious Studies

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the findings, progress to date, recommendations, and any resource or governance implications resulting from the recommendations, and timelines for implementation of the recommendations.

Final Assessment Report: Executive Summary

Summary of Review

- 1) The Dean, Faculty, the Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Postdoctoral Affairs and the Associate Vice-Principal (Teaching and Learning) reviewed the Religious Studies self-study. It was approved on September 7, 2021.
- 2) The review team visit took place between March 23-25, 2022. It was a virtual site visit. The review team members were
 - i. Dr. Carlos Colorado, Associate Professor and Graduate Chair, Religion and Culture, University of Winnipeg
 - ii. Dr. Zeba Crook, Professor, Religion, Carleton University
 - iii. Dr. Donato Santeramo, Professor and Head, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Queen's University
- 3) The visit included meeting with
 - i. Students (undergraduate and graduate)
 - ii. Faculty
 - iii. Staff

- iv. Librarian
 - v. Heads of cognate departments (Philosophy, Classics, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Global Development Studies, English)
 - vi. School of Religion Leadership Team: Director, Graduate Coordinator, Undergraduate Chair
 - vii. Associate Dean, (Teaching and Learning), Faculty of Arts and Science
 - viii. Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies
 - ix. Associate Vice Principal (Teaching and Learning)
- 4) The review team reported on April 1, 2022. The Director, School of Religion Faculty Dean and the Vice Provost and Dean (School of Graduate Studies) and Postdoctoral Affairs provided responses to the review team report.
 - 5) The Senate Cyclical Program Review Committee initially considered the review documentation at its meeting on October 7, 2022. The committee requested a more detailed response from the Director of the School of Religion to the review team report. Having received this response, the committee considered the review once again on January 23, 2023. Based on this discussion, the Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan was developed by the committee secretary and Vice Provost

The following opportunities for enhancement were noted:

- x The selfstudy contains no evidence of external research funding over the review period. The current cohort of faculty members should work with the office of the-Principal (Research) and the Faculty Associate Dean (Research) on strategies for developing research collaborations and external research funding applications.
- x Consideration of the graduate student learning experience; ensuring that the graduate student experience is at the appropriate level, with teaching and learning activities distinct from the undergraduate level.
- x At the time of the selfstudy, courses offered did not fully reflect the full range of religions and religious studies as a discipline. As new faculty members joined the School, new course offerings were developed.
- x Course titles could be revisited to better reflect the stimulating nature of the course content.

Summary of Review Team Recommendations

The review team made five recommendations on the following topics:

- x Upper-year undergraduate and graduate curriculum reform, supported by recent and planned faculty renewal. Addition of 400-level seminar courses was recommended likely by redesigning existing 300-level courses. Consideration recommended of how 300-and 400



Implementation Plan

Recommendations have been summarized and are presented in the priority order established by the Senate Cyclical Program Review Committee

Recommendations	Proposed Followup	Responsibility for Leading Followup	Resource or Governance Implications	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
<p>1. Addition of 4th year courses. Reviewers found the lack of 4th year seminars to be idiosyncratic, unusual this both at Queen's and in similar programs across North America. They recommended the addition of a complement of 4th year seminar courses as valuable experiences for undergraduate students, and to help form a bridge to graduate courses. They recommended that graduate courses should be predominantly seminar-rather than lecture-based. Both undergraduate and graduate students made clear to reviewers that they would benefit from this change.</p>	<p>School of Religion faculty members and Curriculum Committee to review 300 and 400 level courses. Consider redesigning several existing 300 level courses into 400 level seminars. Critically assess the suitability of undergraduate level courses to be cross-listed as graduate courses.</p>	<p>School Director, Undergraduate Chair, Graduate Coordinator and Curriculum Committee</p>	<p>Faculty member time for course redesign. Possible implications if enrolment in more classes need to be capped (though it is not apparent that more classes will need to be limited).</p>	<p>Review during 2023-2024 academic year. Course changes to be made during 2024-2025. Revised courses offered from September 2025</p>

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<p>2. Hire to fill a glaring gap in Transnational Asian Religions. The lack of a fulltime position with specialization in East Asia is a massive lacuna, given the prominence of the area geographically, demographically, and in the history of religion.</p>	<p>School to complete strategic hiring plan. Submit position proposal to available hiring opportunities Submit grant funding proposal to external foundation/s</p>	<p>Hiring of new faculty members is in the purview of the Faculty Dean. School Director to submit hiring request</p>	<p>Significant resource implications associated with new faculty hire</p>	<p>Spring 2023 Spring 2023 and ongoing Winter 2023</p>
<p>3. Faculty Retention. Reviewers recommended that the School and Queen's deploy resources to retain the School's high quality complement of early- and midcareer faculty members. SCPRC recommends that the School pursue multiple channels to increase</p>				

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	committees, consultation with CTL, VP Research, Faculty Office and SGSPA.			2024-2025 academic year).
<p>5. Unifying Theme for the MA.</p> <p>The previous theme of Religion and Modernity was dropped some years ago. The core seminar in Modernity remains. Reviewers reported that students enjoyed the course, but felt was a poor fit in their program. Reviewers recommended that a new theme be developed, and with it, a new core seminar.</p>	<p>Initial follow up to strengthen the MA program is listed in recommendation 1.</p> <p>Further to those actions Graduate Committee and Curriculum Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Review appropriateness of continuing with core seminar in Modernity ii) consider if a unifying theme for the MA program is 	Graduate Committee and Curriculum Committee	Governance time to consider this issue.	<p>First, the existing-1 year MA should be strengthened by curriculum development of upper-year undergraduate and graduate courses (rec 1).</p> <p>Consideration of core seminar in Modernity may take place as part of curriculum response, or separately in 2024-2025.</p> <p>Consideration of development of</p>

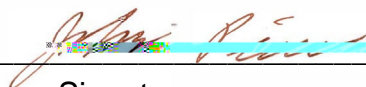
Recommendations	Proposed Followup	Responsibility for Leading Followup	Resource or Governance Implications	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
	<p>possible and desirable.</p> <p>Consultation with</p>			

The Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation plan. The details of progress made will be presented in writing to the Provost and Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and filed in the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Monitoring reports are required 18 months and 4 years after receipt of this document. All monitoring reports will be posted on the university web site.

Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Agreed by Senate Cyclical Program Review Committee
February 27, 2023

Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)




Signature

Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies
And Postdoctoral Affairs



Signature

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science



Barbara Crow, PhD

Signature

Final status of academic programs in the School of Religion

Approved to Continue

Date of next program review

2027-2028 Academic Year