

# What is Religious Studies?

Very few phenomena have the impact on human culture that religion does. Religious Studies is the exploration of religion within culture and history. As a secular academic discipline that takes a variety of approaches, Religious Studies is concerned with how religious beliefs and practices shape and are shaped by human experience. Religious Studies is not limited to a single tradition or religion; it encompasses all religions from all cultures and all times: it is global in scope.

## Contact Info

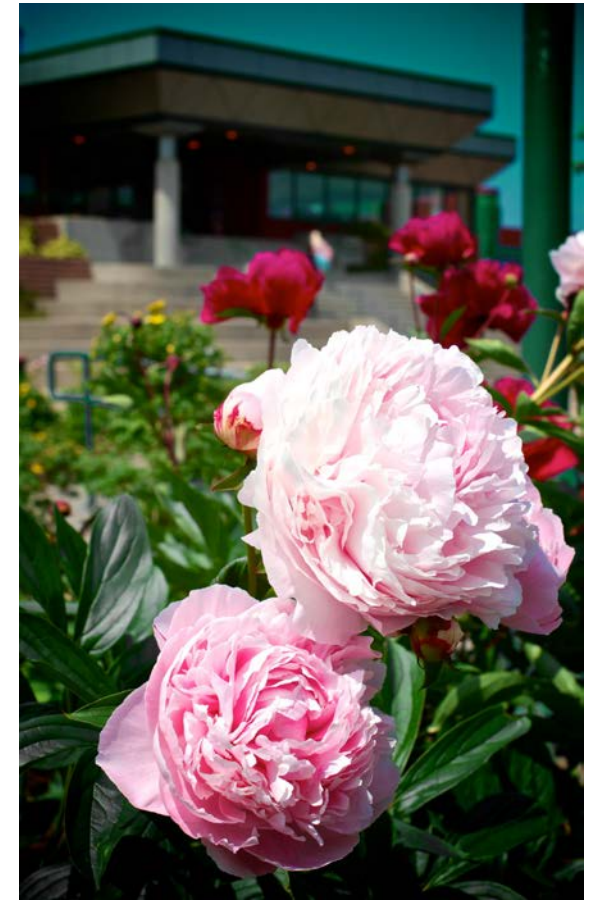
### General office

Department of Religious Studies  
Arts & Administration Building, Room A-5007  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St. John's, NL, Canada A1C 5S7  
T: (709) 864-8166 F: (709) 864-8059  
E: [colleenb@mun.ca](mailto:colleenb@mun.ca)  
[www.mun.ca/relstudies/](http://www.mun.ca/relstudies/)

### Graduate Coordinator

Dr. Jennifer Selby  
T: (709) 864-4046  
E: [jselby@mun.ca](mailto:jselby@mun.ca)  
[www.mun.ca/relstudies/graduate/](http://www.mun.ca/relstudies/graduate/)

**Memorial offers the largest graduate program in Religious Studies in Atlantic Canada, and one of the largest in the nation.**



## Department of Religious Studies

**The Text and Context  
Master of Arts Program**

THE MEMBERS OF OUR DEPARTMENT ARE ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF RESEARCH AND SUPERVISORY ACTIVITIES IN SOME OF THE FOLLOWING BROAD CATEGORIES:

## Religious Texts

Faculty: MD, PD, DH, KP, LR, HR, MS, BS.

- ▶ Hebrew Bible, Second-temple Judaism, early rabbinic Judaism
- ▶ Hindu religious texts and history
- ▶ New Testament, early Christian literature
- ▶ Chinese philosophy
- ▶ Patristic, Medieval, Reformation, and Early Modern studies
- ▶ Christian ethics, social justice
- ▶ Environmental ethics
- ▶ Philosophy of religion, Lonergan
- ▶ Christianity and Modern Literature
- ▶ Western manuscripts

## Religious Contexts

Faculty: MD, PD, JP, LR, JS, HR, BS.

- ▶ Ancient Israelite religion
- ▶ Early, Medieval, Early Modern and Modern Christianity
- ▶ Reception of Hindu religious ideals in South Asian and diasporic contexts
- ▶ Implicit religion and Alternative Religions in North America
- ▶ Religion and Popular Culture
- ▶ Daoism and Confucianism in China
- ▶ Contemporary Islam in the West
- ▶ Religion in Newfoundland and Labrador
- ▶ Christianity and Modernity
- ▶ Experiential Religion and Christian Revivalism

## Method and Theory

Faculty: KP, JP, HR, LR, JS, MS, BS.

- ▶ Historical-critical methods
- ▶ Historical textual approaches, manuscripts
- ▶ Anthropology of Religion, lived religion and field-based approaches
- ▶ Secularism and post-secular studies
- ▶ Philosophy of Religion
- ▶ Ritual Studies
- ▶ Modernism and postmodernism

## Religion and Gender

Faculty: PD, KP, JS, JP, LR.

- ▶ Gender and Hinduism
- ▶ Feminist readings of biblical narratives
- ▶ Muslim family life
- ▶ Women and contemporary Christianity and Islam
- ▶ Women in China

### **A small class with big connections**

Each year's graduate class is small, allowing our graduate students the opportunity to get to know one another well and interact closely with faculty. Graduate students have the use of a small, dedicated library, located on the same floor as the rest of the department's offices. Here they meet with one another to socialize, discuss class work, write and research. The room is equipped with networked computers, a scanner, a printer and the students' personal mailboxes. Some students also maintain a private graduate study carrel in the QEII Library.

## Your Choices

The department offers two programs:

- ▶ a one-year project stream;
- ▶ a two-year thesis stream.

## Our Faculty Members

- ▶ Dr. Michael DeRoche (MD)  
Associate Professor, mderoche@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. Patricia Dold (PD)  
Associate Professor, pdold@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. David J. Hawkin (DH)  
Professor, dhawkin@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. K. I. Parker (KP)  
Professor and Head, kparker@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. Jennifer Porter (JP)  
Associate Professor, jporter@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. Lee Rainey (LR)  
Associate Professor, lrainey@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. Hans Rollmann (HR)  
Professor, hrollman@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. Jennifer Selby (JS)  
Associate Professor, jselby@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. Michael Shute (MS)  
Professor, mshute@mun.ca
- ▶ Dr. Barry Stephenson (BS)  
Assistant Professor, bstephenson@mun.ca

**We offer competitive funding packages for full-time graduate students.**

**For more information on our Text and Context program, please see our graduate handbook available on our webpage.**