

# GRADUATE STUDIES

PHD IN THEOLOGY (ADVANCED PROGRAMS)

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## General Information

By virtue of the federation of Saint Paul University with the University of Ottawa, the Faculty of Theology of Saint Paul University offers graduate programs leading to the degrees conferred jointly by the senates of both universities.

Other graduate theology programs within the sole jurisdiction of the Senate of Saint Paul University are also offered; their description and requirements can be found in the calendar of the Faculty of Theology.

The Faculty of Theology offers the following programs whose degrees are conferred jointly by the senates of the University of Ottawa and Saint Paul University:

- » Master of Arts in Theology;
- » PhD in Theology;
- » Master of Pastoral Theology;
- » Doctor of Ministry;
- » Master of Religious Education.

The doctoral program is intended to promote the acquisition of a high level of intellectual autonomy and expertise in an area of research. As well, applicants are expected to contribute to the progress of knowledge in their discipline or area of studies by presenting original research in the form of a doctoral dissertation. Moreover, the program aims to form qualified persons for university research and teaching or for other activities that require advanced specialization in our disciplines and area of studies.

Doctoral candidates can best benefit from the resources of the faculty by defining their thesis projects in view of the areas of competence of faculty members.

## Graduate Faculty

BLÉE, Fabrice, Associate Professor (on leave until 2024)

BLOOMQUIST, Gregory, Professor Emeritus

DIONNE, Christian, Associate Professor

E. CLIFFORD, Catherine, Full Professor

EATON, Heather, Full Professor

MARTÍNEZ DE PISÓN, Ramón, Full Professor

MARTIN, Miriam K, Associate Professor

MATHIEU, Yvan, Associate Professor

NOBEL, Michael-Andreas, Associate Professor

R. MELCHIN, Kenneth, Professor Emeritus

RENKEN, John, Full Professor

SLATTER, Mark, Associate Professor

SPATAFORA M.S.F., Andrea, Associate Professor

STE-MARIE, Lorraine

## Admission Requirements

### To be admitted to the PhD program:

- » The candidate must hold a MA(Th) degree of the University of Ottawa/Saint Paul with a minimum 75 per cent (B+) average, or its equivalent.
- » Among the applicants who meet this requirement, only those whose academic record gives assurance that they are able to succeed and to make a personal contribution to the field of theological studies will be accepted as candidates to the doctorate.
- » The candidate must master either English or French and have a passive knowledge (ability to follow lectures and to read) of the other language.
- » To be admitted in the biblical studies stream, candidates must have a basic knowledge (Level 1 - Introduction) of Hebrew and of Greek. They must acquire an intermediate level (level 2) of competence in Hebrew and Greek before presentation of the thesis project.
- » The Faculty may require a candidate to acquire certain skills deemed necessary for the achievement of the research project (for example, knowledge of a language, basic knowledge of other disciplines).
- » Provide two confidential letters of recommendation from professors who have know the applicant and are familiar with the student work.
- » Provide a detailed draft of their proposed research project.

### Scholarships and Fellowships

Saint Paul University has established a number of fellowships for doctoral students. More information concerning these as well as other forms of financial assistance can be obtained from the Registrar of Saint Paul University.

### Graduate Courses and Seminars in Theology

The annual program consists of three courses and one continuous seminar.

### Student Transfers From Other Universities

Students who transfer from other universities may receive credit for work already done, but are normally expected to complete the major part of the requirements for the degree at Saint Paul University. Doctoral candidates transferring from another university to complete their degree at Saint Paul University may be given advanced standing for work and residence already completed elsewhere. However, in all such cases, doctoral candidates must complete at least one year of full-time residence, complete 12 credits in their area of study and pass a preliminary examination at Saint Paul University.

### Transfer from Master's to PhD

Program Students enrolled in the MA program may be allowed to transfer to the PhD program without being required to write a master's thesis provided they meet the following conditions:

- » Achievement of an A- average in the last two years of undergraduate studies;
- » Completion of at least four graduate courses (12 credits) with a grade of A- or better in each;
- » Satisfactory progress in the thesis program;
- » Written recommendation by the supervisor;
- » Approval by the graduate studies committee.

The student must request permission to fast-track during the fourth session of registration or earlier and must register in the PhD in the fifth session at the latest. Following the transfer, all of the requirements of the doctoral program must be met.

*Some additional documents, and in some cases specific forms, are required. For more information, please see the page [Step 4: Gather the documents needed for the assessment of your application.](#)*

## Degree Requirements

### Requirements for the PhD program:

- » two regular courses (three credits each) directly related to the thesis topic or to be chosen in consultation with the director of Graduate Studies;
- » directed reading course (3 credits);
- » comprehensive exam;
- » the seminar (3 credits);
- » submission and defence of a thesis.

### Research Director

The research director is appointed by the Faculty of Theology before the end of the second session upon consultation with the student.

### Comprehensive Examination

- » The comprehensive examination is intended to verify that candidates have developed a theological culture enabling them to acquire a knowledge and critical judgment in reference to the major questions, the most significant debates and the principal authors, past and present, in their area of study and, more particularly, in the area of their own research.
- » THO 9998 is a credited activity which is evaluated upon completion of both a written exam and an oral presentation.
- » This examination should take place sometime between the beginning of the third session and the end of the fourth session. It takes place before the presentation of the thesis project.

Refer to the graduate studies procedures manual of the Faculty of Theology for further details on the comprehensive examinations.

### Thesis Project Presentation

The thesis topic must be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for registration after the successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

After the comprehensive examination, upon completion of all course and seminar requirements, and with the approval of the research director, the candidates present their thesis project to professors and graduate students. At this meeting, the candidates present the original hypothesis they have formulated and explain how their project attempts to prove it. The presentation is not perceived as an examination but as an exchange between the participants which may elicit suggestions for improving the project.

### Thesis

The candidate must write, submit and successfully defend a thesis of at least 200 pages. The thesis must be a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge, embody the results of original research and analysis and be of such quality as to be worthy of publication.

At least six copies of the thesis and of a summary not exceeding 350 words must be submitted to the Faculty of Theology.

The thesis is submitted to an examining board of four to seven examiners, at least one of these being chosen outside the University. If the thesis is accepted by this board, the candidate will be called to defend it. The University community and the general public are invited to attend the defence.

## Minimum Standards

The passing grade in all courses is C+. Students who fail two courses (equivalent to 6 credits), the thesis proposal, or whose research progress is deemed unsatisfactory are required to withdraw.

## Residence

All students must complete a minimum of six sessions of full-time registration at the beginning of the program.

## Duration of the Program

Students are expected to complete all requirements within four years. The maximum time permitted is six years from the date of initial registration in the program.

## Thesis Advisory Committee

During the first session of the program, a thesis advisory committee (TAC) is formed for the candidate. The Committee's membership will be determined by the specific interests of the candidate. It will be composed of the supervisor and 2-3 additional professors. At least one member of the thesis committee, in addition to the supervisor, must be from the Faculty of Theology of Saint Paul University. The TAC is responsible for guiding the student throughout the program, including course selection, the comprehensive examination, thesis proposal, and thesis defense.

A meeting between the student and the Thesis Advisory Committee will take place at least once per session. The thesis examining board may include members who are not part of the TAC.

## Courses

### **HUM 5524 LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMATIF ET PSYCHOLOGIE (3cr.)**

Exploration de l'impact de théories psychologiques concernant les dynamiques humaines individuelles et collectives sur la pratique du leadership. Analyse de cet impact sur les compétences, processus cognitifs, émotions, habitudes, comportements, spiritualité et valeurs. Perspectives psychologiques sur la pratique, le rôle et l'identité du leader.

### **IPA 5321 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND PSYCHOLOGY (3cr.)**

Interaction between theology and psychology with reference to pastoral ministry, the experience of the believer, the development of faith and of religious attitudes. The pastoral implications of psychological theories of the individual and his/her social relations: impact on cognitive processes, emotion, behaviour, competence, values. Psychological perspectives on the pastoral minister's practice, role and identity.

### **IPA 5322 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SOCIOLOGY (3cr.)**

Interaction between theology and sociology with reference to pastoral ministry. A study of the pastoral implications of socio-historical structures, and of social and cultural change. Analysis of how the social milieu forms the way people think, feel and act, and the reflection on the importance of this formation for values and beliefs. Sociological perspectives on Christian communities' practice, role and identity.

### **IPA 5722 MINISTÈRE PASTORAL ET SOCIOLOGIE (3cr.)**

Interaction entre théologie et sociologie en relation avec le ministère pastoral. Implications pastorales des structures socio-historiques et des changements sociaux et culturels. Analyse de l'influence du milieu social sur les façons de penser, de sentir et d'agir et réflexion sur l'impact qu'a cette influence sur ces valeurs et croyances. Perspectives sociologiques sur les pratiques, le rôle et l'identité des communautés chrétiennes.

### **THO 5304 CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ITS SOCIAL DIMENSION (3cr.)**

The Christian community as a social reality embodying beliefs and values. Its relationship to and responsibility toward contemporary society and church: local, national, international. Present social questions and the Christian social tradition.

### **THO 5308 STUDIES IN PASTORAL PRACTICE II (3cr.)**

Study of a specific topic or issue in pastoral theology.

### **THO 5704 DIMENSION SOCIALE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ CHRÉTIENNE (3cr.)**

La communauté chrétienne comme réalité sociale incarnant croyances et valeurs. Ses relations et responsabilités envers la société contemporaine et l'Église : aux plans local, national et international. Problèmes sociaux actuels et la tradition sociale chrétienne.

**THO 5708 QUESTIONS PARTICULIÈRES EN PRATIQUE PASTORALE II (3cr.)**

Étude d'un sujet ou d'un problème particulier de théologie pastorale.

**THO 6310 THEOLOGICAL HERMENEUTICS (3cr.)**

Principles and history of interpretation in theology. Recent developments and debates. The role of classic texts and the question of historical consciousness.

**THO 6317 FORMATION OF BIBLICAL TEXT (3cr.)**

Transmission of the text. Inspiration. Canonicity. The authority of the text and the believing community.

**THO 6318 INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT (3cr.)**

Principles and methods of interpretation. History of interpretation: the Church Fathers, Middle Ages, the Reformation, 19th and 20th centuries.

**THO 6333 METHODS AND APPROACHES IN CONTEMPORARY ETHICS (3cr.)**

Hermeneutical questions and methodological foundations of contemporary ethical reflection analysed from a theological perspective.

**THO 6334 ISSUES AND DEBATES IN CONTEMPORARY ETHICS (3cr.)**

Exploring in depth the basic concepts of theological tradition with regard to Christian ethics, as well as the main questions related to ethical research in a contemporary context. Reflection on what is at stake with regard to the public relevance of the Christian ethical discourse in a pluralist and multicultural society.

**THO 6354 RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE (3cr.)**

Faith and experience. The Mystery of God. Interpretations and expressions of the experience of God.

**THO 6355 THEOLOGY AND CULTURE (3cr.)**

The relationship between faith and culture; contemporary issues, questions and challenges. The contextual nature of theology.

**THO 6358 SPIRITUALITY: METHODS; RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE HUMAN SCIENCES (3cr.)**

Analysis of the methods used in the theological study of spirituality. Spirituality in relation to the human sciences.

**THO 6359 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS (3cr.)**

Comparative theological study of one or more Christian spiritual traditions and one or more spiritual traditions within other religions to highlight their

views of the world, human reality and salvation.

**THO 6399 METHODOLOGIES IN THEOLOGY (3cr.)**

Various methodologies used in the main fields of theological research. Theoretical and practical aspects of writing a paper or a thesis: matters of research, defining the problem, a working hypothesis, choosing a method, bibliographical research, writing up the status questiones, etc.

**THO 6710 HERMÉNEUTIQUE THÉOLOGIQUE (3cr.)**

Principes et histoire de l'herméneutique en théologie. Développements et débats récents. Rôle des textes classiques et question de la conscience historique.

**THO 6717 FORMATION DU TEXTE BIBLIQUE (3cr.)**

Transmission du texte. Inspiration. Canon. Autorité du texte et communautés croyantes.

**THO 6718 INTERPRÉTATION DU TEXTE BIBLIQUE (3cr.)**

Principes et méthodes d'interprétation. Histoire de l'interprétation : Pères de l'Église, Moyen-Âge, Réforme, 19e et 20e siècles.

**THO 6733 APPROCHES ET MÉTHODES EN ÉTHIQUE CONTEMPORAINE (3cr.)**

Questions herméneutiques et méthodologiques fondamentales de la réflexion éthique contemporaine analysées dans une perspective théologique.

**THO 6734 PROBLÈMES ET DÉBATS EN ÉTHIQUE CONTEMPORAINE (3cr.)**

Approfondissement des concepts fondamentaux de la tradition théologique en éthique chrétienne ainsi que des questions majeures qui caractérisent la recherche éthique dans son contexte contemporain. Réflexions sur les enjeux de la pertinence publique du discours éthique chrétien dans une société pluraliste et multiculturelle.

**THO 6754 EXPÉRIENCE RELIGIEUSE (3cr.)**

Foi et expérience. Mystère de Dieu. Interprétations et expressions de l'expérience de Dieu.

**THO 6755 THÉOLOGIE ET CULTURE (3cr.)**

Rapport entre foi et culture; débats contemporains, questions et défis. Nature contextuelle de la théologie.

**THO 6758 SPIRITUALITÉ : SES MÉTHODES, SES RAPPORTS AVEC LES SCIENCES HUMAINES (3cr.)**

Analyse des méthodes utilisées dans l'étude théologique de la spiritualité. La spiritualité dans ses rapports avec les sciences humaines.

**THO 6759 ÉTUDE COMPARÉE DE TRADITIONS SPIRITUELLES (3cr.)**

Étude théologique comparée d'une ou de plusieurs traditions spirituelles chrétiennes et d'une ou de plusieurs traditions spirituelles dans d'autres religions. Un intérêt particulier pour leur vision de l'univers, de la réalité humaine et du salut.

**THO 6799 MÉTHODOLOGIES EN THÉOLOGIE (3cr.)**

Présentation des diverses méthodologies utilisées dans les principaux champs de la recherche théologique. Aspects théoriques et pratiques relatifs à la réalisation d'un mémoire ou d'une thèse : question de recherche, établissement de la problématique, hypothèse de travail, choix de la méthode, recherche bibliographique, rédaction de l'état de la question, etc.

**THO 6997 EXAMEN DE SYNTHÈSE DE MAÎTRISE EN CHRISTIANISME ORIENTAL (3cr.)**

Un examen oral et écrit pendant lequel l'étudiant devra démontrer son aptitude à faire une réflexion critique sur cinq thèmes (et textes correspondants), ayant une portée particulière pour le christianisme oriental.

**THO 6999 MÉMOIRE (6cr.)**

Le mémoire, d'environ 40 pages, vise l'approfondissement d'un sujet théologique précis à l'aide d'outils méthodologiques pertinents.

**THO 7999 THÈSE DE MAÎTRISE (12cr.)**

La thèse de maîtrise, d'environ 100 pages, doit démontrer la capacité de l'étudiant à travailler de manière indépendante et rigoureusement scientifique.

**THO 9295 DOCTORAL SEMINAR IN THEOLOGY (3cr.)**

Organization and composition of a thesis proposal acceptable to the Faculty of theology and the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (Graded: S or N/S)

**THO 9695 SÉMINAIRE DE 3E CYCLE EN THÉOLOGIE (3cr.)**

Organisation et rédaction d'un projet de thèse acceptable par la Faculté de théologie et la Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales. (Noté : S ou NS)

**THO 9998 COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**THO 9999 DOCTORAL THESIS**

## Address

### Office of Admissions, Registrar and Student Services

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Saint Paul University  
223 Main Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1S 1C4  
CANADA  
Telephone: 613-236-1393  
Fax: 613-782-3014  
admission@ustpaul.ca

### Hours of Operation of August 15 to May 31

Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Hours of Operation of June 1 to August 14

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.