

Summary Table Implementation Plan:

The programs from the *Department of Religions and Culture*

(Based on the standard committee reports, completed as of 2017).

From the 2025 Undergraduate Calendar:

The Department of Religions and Cultures is dedicated to the academic study of various faiths and of social and cultural phenomena affected by religions. The curriculum includes the comparative study of many religious traditions of the world. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, students are encouraged to develop an understanding of at least two religious traditions. Whatever the student's special focus, the informed appreciation of the beliefs and values of other cultures is considered an essential dimension of education for today's world.

It is difficult at this time to limit the field of view to the 2014 period, and we provide here a snapshot of the programs when this appraisal was initiated, and now. In 2014, the Department had 12 programs and 15 full-time faculty members. In 2024, the unit had 13 programs and 12 full-time faculty members.

Data	2014	2024 (last Calendar with Masthead)
Programs	<p>Undergrad</p> <p><i>Iranian Studies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor in Iranian Studies <p><i>Judaic Studies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA Honours in Judaic Studies • BA Major in Judaic Studies • Minor in Judaic Studies <p><i>Religion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA Honours in Religion • BA Major in Religion • Minor in Religion <p><i>Southern Asia Studies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA Major in Southern Asia Studies • Minor in Southern Asia Studies <p>Grad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion PhD • Judaic Studies MA • History and Philosophy of Religion MA 	<p>Undergrad</p> <p><i>Iranian Studies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor in Iranian Studies • Certificate in Iranian Studies <p><i>Judaic Studies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA Honours in Judaic Studies • BA Major in Judaic Studies • Minor in Judaic Studies <p><i>Religions and Cultures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA Honours in Religions and Cultures • BA Major in Religions and Cultures • Minor in Religions and Cultures <p><i>Southern Asia Studies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA Major in Southern Asia Studies • Minor in Southern Asia Studies <p>Grad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion PhD • Judaic Studies MA • Religions and Cultures MA
# programs	12 (1 removed)	13 (2 new)
Faculty members	<p><i>Chair</i> LORENZO DITOMMASO, Associate Professor</p> <p><i>Distinguished Professors Emeriti</i> FREDERICK BIRD MICHEL DESPLAND JACK LIGHTSTONE SHEILA McDONOUGH</p>	<p><i>Chair</i> NAFTALI COHN, Professor</p> <p><i>Distinguished Professors Emeriti</i> FREDERICK BIRD MICHEL DESPLAND JACK LIGHTSTONE SHEILA McDONOUGH</p>

	<p><i>Professors</i> RICHARD FOLTZ MICHAEL OPPENHEIM</p> <p><i>Hindu Studies Chair</i> T.B.A.</p> <p><i>Associate Professors</i> DONALD BOISVERT LYNDA CLARKE NAFTALI COHN CARLY DANIEL-HUGHES MARC DES JARDINS SHAMAN HATLEY NORMA JOSEPH LESLIE ORR NORMAN RAVVIN</p> <p><i>Assistant Professor</i> HILLARY KAELL</p> <p><i>Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies Chair</i> IRA ROBINSON, Professor</p> <p><i>Senior Lecturer</i> MARC LALONDE</p>	<p>MICHAEL OPPENHEIM IRA ROBINSON T.S. RUKMANI</p> <p><i>Professors</i> LYNDA CLARKE CARLY DANIEL-HUGHES LORENZO DITOMMASO RICHARD FOLTZ NORMA JOSEPH LESLIE ORR NORMAN RAVVIN</p> <p><i>Associate Professor</i> MARC DES JARDINS</p> <p><i>Assistant Professor</i> SOWPARNIKA BALASWAMINATHAN</p> <p><i>Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies</i> MIRANDA CROWDUS, <i>Assistant Professor</i></p> <p><i>Senior Lecturer</i> MARC LALONDE</p>
Full-time #	15 (5 retirements before 2024)	12 (2 hires since 2014)

FAS Assessment and recommendations. The Faculty of Arts and Science has reviewed the Department Appraisal Committee, External Examiners, and University Appraisal Committee reports, and warmly thanks the committees, as well as the external examiners and department chairs, for their reports and oversight. Following the reading of all the committee reports, here are FAS recommendations. Updates can be made in discussions, and to coordinate the next cycle of program reviews.

Outline	Decanal Recommendation	Referenced recommendations	Area	Actor
<i>Shorter-term (in the next year)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following their work on integrating cultural aspects more explicitly in their mission, further develop strategic directions and continue ongoing curriculum review processes, at the undergraduate and graduate levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This should consider the potential collaborations with other academic units in research and teaching. Such collaborations should include common topic areas (e.g., 	UAC-3-6, 7, 9-11. DAC-4-5, 7-8, 10-12.	Programs & Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dept FAS Univ

	<p>culture, philosophy, geography, social aspects) and common methods (theology, media).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to assess their progress in decolonization and diversity. ○ They should also review the progress of their new MA options and streams. ○ This should also include an online course strategy. ○ The review should include the contribution of both FT and PT faculty. ○ The planning should also include a vision for faculty member hiring, benefiting both research and teaching. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate student recruitment and communication strategies for the department. 	UAC-1, 2. DAC-1, 3.	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dept ● FAS ● Univ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate space for accessibility and integrate this in space planning. 	UAC-15.	Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dept ● FAS ● Univ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish further connections with university and external bodies for research funding. 	UAC-8. DAC-9.	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dept ● FAS ● Univ
<i>Medium-term (within the next 3 years)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review undergraduate and graduate advising best practices, as well as the role of GPDs and their potential consolidation. 	UAC-3, 13-14.	Advising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dept ● FAS ● Univ
<i>Longer-term (within the next 5 years)</i>	Kept for the next appraisal / program review process.			

The FAS is looking forward to updates on these activities and ensuing discussions, as well as contributing to the next cycle of *Program Reviews*.