Western Centre for the Study of Theory & Criticism

GRADUATE HANDBOOK 2025-2026

The Graduate Handbook is printed once a year. Interim revisions may be viewed on the Theory Centre's web site at www.uwo.ca/theory.

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Western
Centre for the Study
of Theory & Criticism

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism is an established forum for interdisciplinary research and advanced study in theory, as well as for theoretical problems that cross major fields and sub-disciplines in the Humanities and social sciences. The Centre was created in 1986 as Canada's only centre for interdisciplinary theoretical research, in response to both the growing recognition of theory as an area with its own body of texts, and to the sense that departmental boundaries can limit intellectual efforts in areas where scholars from different disciplines find themselves dealing with similar issues. These include broad philosophical and methodological questions about art, culture, politics, and society not usually addressed except as an annex of disciplinary inquiry.

Research at the Centre focuses on the work of such movements as deconstruction, post-structuralism, semiotics, hermeneutics, phenomenology, the Frankfurt School, psycho-analysis, Marxism, and gender theory, as well as on areas such as continental philosophy and the history of thought that are part of the genealogy of contemporary theory. More broadly, it is concerned with the questions raised by these movements, and with constructing a dialogue both between theory and its history and between the disciplines or discourses that have contributed to contemporary theory. Courses at the Centre differ from theoretically oriented courses offered by other departments in focusing on theory as an object of enquiry in itself rather than on its application to a particular discipline. The distinction has proved itself important in ensuring that work at the Centre does not duplicate work that can be, or is, done in graduate programs in other departments.

Housed between the Faculties of Arts and Humanities, Information & Media Studies, and Social Sciences, the Centre encourages an interdisciplinary approach to theory and its histories. Since the inception of its M.A. program in 1990, the Centre has been the preferred destination for high caliber students from Canada and from abroad, and this tradition has continued at the doctoral level since the launching of the Ph.D. program in 2002. Through its programs and the work of its accomplished Core Faculty, the Centre has successfully established itself as one of Western's most celebrated research-intensive graduate programs.

EVENTS

The Centre sponsors a variety of seminars, conferences, publications and an active program of lectures and colloquia by both internal and external faculty, including the Centre's own Interdisciplinary *Graduate Student Conference*.

In addition to the many **books** published by individual faculty members, collaborative projects include *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (eds. Groden, Kreiswirth and Szeman), and **proceedings** of two of our international conferences: *Constructive Criticism: The Human Sciences in the Age of Theory* (eds. Kreiswirth and Carmichael, University of Toronto Press, 1995) and *After Poststructuralism: Writing the Intellectual History of Theory* (eds. Rajan and O'Driscoll, University of Toronto Press, 2002).

As part of its **Interdisciplinary *Speaker Series***, the Centre brings in visiting lecturers from Canada and abroad. Speakers over the years have included Jean-Marie Apostolides, Jean Baudrillard, Peter Brooks, Wendy Brown, Norman Bryson,

David Carroll, Anthony Cascardi, Jean-Joseph Goux, Elizabeth Grosz, N. Katherine Hayles, Agnes Heller, Linda Hutcheon, Michael Hardt, Martin Jay, Barbara Johnson, David Farrell Krell, Murray Krieger, Arthur Kroker, Dominick LaCapra, Judith Butler, Jerome McGann, Eduardo Mendieta, J. Hillis Miller, Chantal Mouffe, Christopher Norris, Dorothea Olkowski, Mark Poster, Richard Rorty, Charles Scott, Thomas Sebeok, Kaja Silverman, Gayatri Spivak, Bernard Stiegler, Samuel Weber, Hayden White, Slavoj Žižek, and many others.

Other relevant **lecture series and colloquia** organized by Centre faculty members include *Romanticism at Western* (J. Faflak and T. Rajan), *Future Directions in Feminist Phenomenology* (H. Fielding) *Futures of Schelling: Second Annual Conference* (T. Rajan), and the annual lecture program of the *Centre for Advanced Research in European Philosophy* at King's University College (A. Calcagno).

The ***Theory Sessions***, a student initiative, serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas to promote interdisciplinary research in theory at the Centre and across campus. Students and faculty present their papers and engage in spirited discussions, with contributions from interested Centre scholars as well as faculty and students from other fields and disciplines at Western including Anthropology, Business, Comparative Literature, English, French, Media Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, and Visual Arts.

Each year the Centre sponsors an Interdisciplinary **Graduate Student Conference**, organized by graduate students from the Theory Centre and contributing to the Centre's stimulating intellectual and interdisciplinary atmosphere. Previous conferences have included 'Worlding Beyond the End of the

World,' '*Reapproaching Walter Benjamin*: The Task of Theory Today', '*Aftermaths*: Revolution and Recovery', '*The Artfulness of Play:* Bridging Creative and Theoretical Discourses', and '*Tactics of Resistance:* Limitations & Possibilities'.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If accepted into the program, the Offer of Admission letter will provide the recipient with specific details of their total support package for the duration of the program.

All students accepted into the program are automatically awarded a **Western Graduate Research Scholarship** (WGRS), designed to cover a portion of tuition fees during the eligible period of funding. These scholarships are available to both domestic and International graduate students. To be eligible, students must be registered full-time and meet the program conditions for progression towards their degree. The WGRS is automatically awarded to the recipient's Student Centre account and applied towards outstanding tuition fees. The funding package may include an assignment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or Fellowship. Please note that funding received from a GTA or Fellowship is included as part of, not in addition to, a student's total financial support package.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships are assigned based on availability and a student's academic background. Placements cannot be guaranteed. Placements are made in departments affiliated with the Centre and every attempt is made to match teaching assistants with the most suitable course and/or instructor.

Graduate student funding comes from a variety of sources and sometimes results in varying levels of financial support in the Fall, Winter and Summer terms. WGRS is paid once per term, in September, January and May. GTAs are hired in the fall and winter terms and paid in equal monthly installments on the second-last working day of each month. **Note**: students may need to cover their tuition fees in advance of their first GTA payment.

Prospective applicants are strongly urged to apply for external scholarships for which they are eligible, and continuing students are required to apply for these awards (see **External Scholarships**).

M.A. students are funded for a maximum of two years and Ph.D. students for a maximum of four years. Ph.D. students transferring from another doctoral program at Western may have their period of funding eligibility reduced.

The Centre welcomes applications from International students. All international students will be considered for a range of funding packages. In the case of applicants to the Ph.D. program, domestic tuition fees apply.

The **Graduate Student Conference Travel Fund** is available to Theory Centre students to help support costs directly related to their presentation at a conference, including registration, travel, accommodation, and other related expenses. To be eligible, a student must be presenting a paper at a recognized scholarly peer-reviewed conference. Students who meet the criteria are eligible to receive up to $800 per academic year. Approval must be given by the program and all original

receipts for expenses claimed must be provided. Please contact the Program Coordinator for details.

Graduate Donor Awards are designed to support the costs of research undertaken by full-time graduate students. Applicants must be engaged in doing research as part of their degree requirements. Award values range between $800 - $1500 per recipient. Funds can be requested to help offset the costs of field (including travel) research. Students will be notified via email once the competition opens, and the deadline is usually in January of each year. Contact Gabbi Whitlock at gwhitloc@uwo.ca for more information.

TUITION AND FEES

Graduate student registration runs on **three cycles (Fall, Winter, Summer)**. Graduate students maintain full-time registration year-round and must pay tuition fees in each term they are registered, regardless of course enrolment.

Each term's fees include varying coverage under the student Health and Dental Plan. This means that fees in the Fall term may be slightly higher than those in the Winter and Summer terms. To view the current term's tuition and ancillary fees, please visit the Office of the Registrar: www.registrar.uwo.ca

Graduate students can view their tuition fees on the Student Center one month before the start of term. If you are receiving a WGRS that term, you will see the funds appear as "Anticipated Aid". The WGRS is applied directly towards any outstanding tuition fees and the balance, if any, is refunded by direct deposit one week following the tuition payment deadline.

EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

As noted above, applicants to the program are strongly urged to apply for external support in the form of an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), and Canada Graduate Research Scholarships (CGRS). During their period of fundability, **continuing full-time M.A. and Ph.D. students must apply for any external awards for which they are eligible**. The program reserves the right to adjust the amount of program support awarded to recipients of external scholarships, which may therefore vary between terms.

CENTRE FACILITIES

Graduate Student Lounge is located in Lawson Hall Rm. 1276. Equipped with a kitchenette, sitting areas, as well as dedicated mailboxes (mailbox key assigned at the start of your studies for a small deposit).

Quiet Study Space for Theory and Criticism students is made available in the Centre's study lab, Lawson Hall Rm. 1270. The lab houses seventeen locking work stations and is a noise-free zone.

Graduate Office Space for teaching assistants and student groups in Stevenson Hall Rm. 2158. Office hours can be booked in advance through the Program Coordinator.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

Society of Graduate Students (SOGS)
All graduate students are automatically members of SOGS, dedicated to providing the information, assistance, and services necessary to help graduate students successfully complete their goals while at Western. SOGS provides many benefits to its members, and plays a key role in advocacy work. In addition, SOGS provides **Bursary, Scholarship, Travel awards, Subsidy and Emergency Loans** to graduate students. If you are interested in becoming a councillor for the Centre, contact SOGS directly.

Graduate Teaching Assistant's Union (GTA Union)
The GTA Union is composed solely of Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) at Western. Through periodic negotiations with the University, the Union establishes a Collective Agreement which defines GTA working conditions, compensation, and benefits. The Union provides extended health benefits, bursaries, and scholarships.

The Student Centre
The Student Centre is your online resource for updating your current address, viewing your academic record, course Information, and your tuition and fee statement of account. Visit the student centre at www.student.uwo.ca/

The Graduate Calendar
The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) provides the graduate calendar online.
This is the best place to look for deadline dates and registration Information: www.grad.uwo.ca

Western Graduate Student Services Portal
The Western Graduate Student Services Portal allows students to apply online for a Change of Status (ie: Leave of Absence, Thesis Only Status, Request for Part-Time Status, Voluntary Withdrawal). www.grad.uwo.ca/student/index.cfm

The Office of the Registrar
Provides general information about course timetables, tuition and fees, convocation information, T2202s (tuition tax form), etc. www.registrar.uwo.ca

Health and Wellness
As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director, or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS – M.A. PROGRAM

The M.A. program takes two years to complete and involves course work, a language requirement, and a thesis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: **Groups A, B and C.**

Students are required to take six half courses or equivalent during their two years of study: four in the first year and two in the second. Since this distribution is intended to allow them to concentrate on the thesis during the second year, permission to do fewer than four courses in the first year must be sought from the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). **Students are required to fulfill a "breadth requirement"** by taking at least one half course from each of Group A (aesthetics, philosophy, psychoanalysis, language theory) and Group B (social, cultural and political theory). In contrast to the more specialized courses in Group C, these courses have a topical focus but are also designed to cover a variety of theorists from the above areas, and to introduce students to nineteenth-century and modern, as well as to contemporary theory. The breadth requirement can be fulfilled over two years.

With some exceptions, **graduate courses in Theory and Criticism** are limited to no more than twelve (12) students. Pre-registering in a course does not guarantee that you will be able to take the course. During the summer incoming M.A. students will be asked which courses they would like to enroll. Every attempt will be made to give students their top four courses but this may not always be possible. M.A. students will

nevertheless be guaranteed their first choice. Continuing students are also guaranteed their first choice.

Students may also enroll in **graduate courses in other programs** that take up theory and criticism, subject to the approval of the Director and Graduate Studies Committee. Students may take up to two such half-courses, provided that they are relevant to the program of study. They should submit a formal request, including the course syllabus, outlining how the course is relevant to their research at the Theory Centre. Requests should be submitted no later than the start of term (September 1/January 1/May 1). In order to ensure a place in the course, students must also submit a **Request to Enroll in Graduate Course Outside Home Program** form.

In exceptional circumstances students may fulfill one of their six course requirements by taking a **Directed Reading course**. Students should, however, be aware that instructors receive no credit for teaching reading courses. Reading courses are given on a Pass/Fail basis, must meet for the same number of hours as a regular course, cannot be specifically oriented to the student's thesis, and will not be approved if there is a regular course that covers approximately the same material. Requests for directed reading courses (including syllabus, letter of consent from the instructor, etc.) must be submitted no later than six weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the course is to be taken. Please consult the Director for further details.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

In order to graduate with a degree in Theory and Criticism, students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of one language other than English that is relevant to their research.

Students are strongly encouraged to complete this requirement in their first year. Students who have already satisfied this requirement through previous post-secondary studies should consult with the Director at the start of the program.

There are three ways of satisfying the language requirement:

- **Language Exam** - For those who are fluent but whose proficiency is not reflected in formal course preparation. Students can meet the requirement in one of two ways:
    1. Take a written foreign language exam to demonstrate reading knowledge of a language other than English. This requirement is met by passing a translation test, to be written with the aid of a dictionary, set by the Director. Test languages are limited to the expertise and availability of faculty.
    2. The language department administers an online, computerized test to determine students' proficiency. Once completed, the results should be sent to the Director of the Centre for evaluation.

- **Course Work** - Satisfactory completion (70% or above) in a full year undergraduate language course will be regarded as meeting the language requirement.

- **Previous Studies -** students who have already satisfied the language requirement through previous post-secondary language studies may apply those course credits toward the degree requirement in Theory and

Criticism. Students should consult with the Director at the beginning of the year.

Note: Students enrolling in language courses through the Department of Modern Languages may take the course Pass/Fail. *You must indicate that you wish to take the course Pass/Fail at the time of enrollment and cannot be changed retroactively.*

THESIS REQUIREMENTS

Each M.A. student is required to write a thesis. The thesis is a formal statement of the theory, source materials, methodology, and findings of a student's major research project. It must be between 25,000 and 35,000 words, excluding bibliography and non-substantive appendices. All program requirements (including language requirement) must be completed before submission of a thesis for oral examination.

Each student writing a thesis must have a **Thesis Supervisory Committee** consisting of:

A Supervisor: This individual plays a key role in the direction of the student's research, providing advice and criticism on the planning and writing of the thesis. The chief supervisor **must** be a member of the Centre's Core Faculty. This designation ensures that the faculty member has the appropriate level of supervisory membership and primary responsibility for overseeing the Master's thesis research. Although every effort will be made to accommodate the student's research preferences, the program cannot guarantee a particular supervisor.

A Second Reader: An additional core faculty member, preferably representing a different discipline from that of the supervisor, who provides another perspective on the formulation and direction of the thesis, but does not read the thesis in its entirety. S/he also serves on the "hearing committee" [see below], as well as on the examining committee.
Associate Faculty may serve as 2nd readers on MA and/or PhD theses provided they possess SGPS supervisory privileges granted through their home department.

STAGES AND DEADLINES

All deadlines listed below are absolute and affect grading and progress in the program.

Year I, September – *Preparation*
Through meetings with the Director, Associate Director, instructors and/or faculty mentors, the student should begin thinking about a suitable thesis topic, a supervisor, and a second reader. Begin by browsing through the faculty listings in this Handbook, and discussing possible thesis topics informally with faculty who specialize in your area of interest. Approach any faculty of interest and ask whether or not they will supervise your thesis. If so, then you and/or the supervisor should approach another core faculty member about acting as second reader for the thesis. The selection of a topic and a second reader that is satisfactory to the student as well as the supervisor may require a considerable amount of exploration.

Year I, January 15 – *Selection* of Research Topic and Committee

By January 15 of the first year, the student must submit to the GSC for approval the names of a potential supervisor and second reader and a provisional title or research area for the thesis. Please note that an individual faculty member is not allowed to be chief supervisor for more than two Centre M.A. students from any given year.

Year I, April 1 – *Submission* of Proposal
Working with the supervisor, the student must submit:
(a) a 10-12 page draft proposal, incorporating within it a rationale for its interdisciplinary and theoretical nature, and a preliminary bibliography (2-3 pp.)
(b) a 2-3 page abstract of the proposal (and the preliminary bibliography)

Year I, April 15-30 – Proposal *Hearing*
The student will attend a "thesis hearing" at which s/he will discuss the proposal with a committee chosen for this purpose by the GSC. The hearing committee will consist of the supervisor, the second reader, and a member of the GSC, all of whom will have read the draft proposal in advance. The purpose of the hearing is to provide feedback on the proposal and examine its merits, as well as its feasibility. The GSC member will provide a short report on the hearing to the GSC. The 2-3 page abstract will also be circulated to the GSC for possible feedback and final approval. The thesis hearing appears on the student's transcript, and a grade of "PASS" is necessary for completion of the first year of the program.

Year I, June 15 – *Revisions*
If the proposal requires revisions, the student will submit a final proposal to the members of the hearing committee and a further meeting may be required. The student will have

revised the proposal, taking into account feedback from the hearing committee and the GSC.

Year II, September 15 – Thesis *Draft*
The student will submit to the supervisor and second reader a draft of a portion of the thesis (approx. 25 pp.; not the revised proposal). The supervisor and second reader will submit assessments of this draft to the Director. If appropriate (in terms of the second reader's expertise), the student may submit a later section of the thesis to the second reader instead of the chapter/section submitted in September.

Year II, December to April – Thesis *Preparation*
The student continues to work with the supervisor, submitting drafts of individual chapters for feedback. Students must keep their supervisor closely apprised of their progress. However, ultimate responsibility for the quality of the thesis rests with the student. The supervisors are expected to provide intellectual advice and guidance but not to "edit" the thesis.

As you approach the completion of the dissertation, you must **build in enough time for your supervisor to review your complete draft,** as well as sufficient time for you to make necessary revisions. Very often this means submitting the final complete draft of the dissertation to your committee at the beginning of the term in which you plan to defend (usually the 6th term of enrolment). When the supervisor is satisfied that the thesis is ready, it will be submitted for examination as outlined below.

Year II, May to August – Final Thesis *Submission*
M.A. examinations are scheduled through the program using the following timeline:

4 Weeks to Examination:	Program must submit names of examiners to SGPS
3 Weeks to Examination:	Candidate submits ***approved*** thesis to the program

Thesis Examining Committee and Defense

The thesis will be examined by three faculty members, consisting of the second reader, a further examiner from the program, and a faculty member from another department who is not a member of the Core Faculty of the Centre. The committee is chosen by the Director in consultation with the supervisor. The student should not approach potential examiners on his or her own. At the defense itself students should be prepared to describe their research in a 10 minute opening presentation. Thesis submission guidelines are posted on the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) web site at www.uwo.ca/grad.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS, INCOMPLETES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In order to continue receiving funding, students must make satisfactory progress in the program. The term "satisfactory progress" pertains to completion of the language requirement, completion of course work, and progress on work for the thesis. All cases of "unsatisfactory progress" will be considered by the Graduate Studies Committee and can result in withdrawal of funding as well as withdrawal from the program, as well as affect eligibility for external scholarships.

a) Language requirement

All entering students should discuss their schedule for completing the language requirement with the Director. Please note that a student cannot defend his or her thesis or graduate if the language requirement has not been fulfilled.

b) Course work

"Satisfactory progress" constitutes the timely completion of each course with a grade of 78% or above.

A student may request an incomplete (INC) without penalty on compassionate or medical grounds. In such cases, **the student must make a written request to both the instructor and the Director no later than the last day of class, no exceptions**. The written request must include a) the date by which the remaining work will be completed, and b) (where relevant) a certificate from a physician. This request will be forwarded to the GSC for approval. Permission from the instructor is not a guarantee that the INC request will be granted. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the student will not be allowed to carry more than one INC in a semester.

The INC will be changed to a grade only if the work is completed by the grade submission deadline. The student must notify the Centre that the work has been submitted. If a grade is not submitted by this deadline, the INC becomes a Failure. An 'F' grade resulting from an INC is final. Failure to comply with this regulation will constitute "unsatisfactory" progress according to the Centre's regulations and will jeopardize funding.

c) Thesis

"Satisfactory" progress in thesis work consists of a) completion of the thesis hearing and

final version of the thesis prospectus by June 15th of Year 1; b) completion of the first
thesis chapter by September 15th of year 2.

APPEALS

Procedures for making an appeal are available in the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/appealsgrad.pdf. Appeals may result in the raising or lowering of an original grade.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS – Ph.D. PROGRAM

The Ph.D. program requires the completion of course work, two qualifying examinations, a language requirement, and a dissertation. Normal time to completion is four years.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to take six half-courses or equivalent, chosen from groups A, B or C (see 'Courses'), at least four of which must be taken at the Centre to ensure that there is an adequate coverage of theoretical figures and issues. Students will normally take four courses in the first year and two in the second. Since this distribution is intended to ensure that all course work and qualifying examinations are completed during the first two years of the program, permission to do fewer than four courses in the first year must be sought from the Graduate Studies Committee.

With some exceptions, **graduate courses in Theory and Criticism** are limited to no more than twelve (12) students. Pre-registering in a course does not guarantee that you will be able to take the course. During the summer incoming Ph.D. students will be asked to list six courses in which they would like to enroll. Students are guaranteed their first choice course and every attempt will be made to give them their other top choices, but this may not always be possible. Continuing Ph.D. students will be asked to list four courses in which they would like to enroll and are guaranteed their first choice.

Students may enroll in **graduate courses in other programs** concerned with theory and criticism, with the approval of the

Director and GSC. They may take up to two such half-courses, provided that they are relevant to the program of study. Students should submit a formal request, including the course syllabus, outlining how the course is relevant to their research at the Theory Centre. Requests should be submitted no later than the start of term (September 1/January 1/May 1). In order to ensure a place in the course, students must also submit a **Request to Enroll in Graduate Course Outside Home Program** form.

In exceptional circumstances students may fulfill one of their six course requirements by taking a **Directed Reading course**. Students should, however, be aware that instructors receive no credit for teaching reading courses. Reading courses are given on a Pass/Fail basis, must meet for the same number of hours as a regular course, cannot be specifically oriented to the student's thesis, and will not be approved if there is a regular course that covers approximately the same material. Requests for directed reading courses (including syllabus, letter of consent from the instructor, etc.) must be submitted no later than six weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the course is to be taken. Please consult the Director for further details.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

In order to graduate with a degree in Theory and Criticism, students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of one language other than English that is relevant to their research.

There are three ways of satisfying the language requirement:

- **Language Exam** - For those who are fluent but whose proficiency is not reflected in formal course

preparation. Students can meet the requirement in one of two ways:

1. Take a written foreign language exam to demonstrate reading knowledge of a language other than English. This requirement is met by passing a translation test, to be written with the aid of a dictionary, set by the Director. Test languages are limited to the expertise and availability of faculty.
2. The language department administers an online, computerized test to determine students' proficiency. Once completed, the results should be sent to the Director of the Centre for evaluation.

- **Course Work** - Satisfactory completion (70% or above) in a full year undergraduate language course beyond the level of senior matriculation (numbered 1900 - 4999) will be regarded as meeting the language requirement.

- **Previous Studies -** students who have already satisfied the language requirement through previous post-secondary language studies may apply those course credits toward the degree requirement in Theory and Criticism. Students should consult with the Director at the beginning of the year.

Note: Students enrolling in language courses through the Department of Modern Languages may take the course Pass/Fail. *You must indicate that you wish to take the course Pass/Fail at the time of enrollment and cannot be changed retroactively.*

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION and FIELD STUDY

Ph.D. candidates are required to pass the **Core Examination** and **Field Examination** before proceeding to the doctoral dissertation. The Core Examination and Field Study are to be completed during the second year of study (**Terms 4 to 6**). Students must declare their intention to take the examination by May 31 of their first year (Term 3).

The **Core Examination** consists of a written examination based on a reading list of approximately fifty books or equivalents (chapters/articles), and is to be completed during the second year of the Ph.D. There will be two annual sittings of the Core Examination: the first in late September, and the second in early February. Students, especially those with sufficient theoretical preparation, are strongly encouraged to write the examination at the Fall sitting. The exam is assigned both a Pass/Fail and a numeric grade, the latter to be recorded only internally within CSTC. At the Centre, 70% is considered a passing grade, and grades of 85% and over carry the designation "With Distinction", which will be recorded on the transcript. The student is notified of the results of the exam by the Chair of the examining committee.
A candidate may fail and retake the Core Examination once. A candidate who fails the Core Examination a second time will be required to withdraw from the program.

The **Field Examination** is an opportunity to define an area of interdisciplinary theory related to the student's dissertation project. It involves submission of a written text, followed by an oral hearing in which this text is discussed with the student by a three-person committee.

Candidates will first prepare and submit a 20-25 page text based on a list of 25 texts (over and above any texts drawn from the Core Examination list), and selected in consultation with the supervisor and second reader. In addition to this 20-25 page text, the student should include a Bibliography of 25 works, and a 2-page synopsis. These three components (20-25 page text, bibliography and synopsis) must be submitted no less than two weeks prior to the oral hearing.

The text and bibliography will then be discussed with the student at a **"field study hearing."** The Field Examination committee consists of the supervisor, second reader, and a third person chosen by the Director in consultation with the supervisor and student. Candidates have until May 15 of their second year to submit the written components, with the oral hearing to occur within 2-3 weeks of submission. The Field Study bears a close relationship to the dissertation and can be thought of as something like a potential introduction to it, though it may in practice be significantly modified in the process of writing the dissertation.

The Field Examination (written submission and oral discussion) is assigned a Pass/Fail. A candidate may fail and retake the Field Examination once. A candidate who passes the Core Examination but fails the Field Examination twice will be required to withdraw from the Program.

A short, 4-5 page **Thesis Proposal** will be due 2 weeks after the Field Study Hearing. This document may incorporate the 2-page synopsis, appropriately modified in the light of discussion, but must also contain a chapter or section outline.

The student must discuss the proposal with his/her committee prior to submitting it to the Graduate Studies Committee.

Final approval of the Thesis Proposal by the Graduate Studies Committee will be understood as completion of the Field Examination milestone, and the Program's approval for the candidate to proceed with the proposed dissertation project.

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULE – CORE EXAM

Year I, May 31 – Date by which candidate must declare intention to take examination

Year II, November 15 – Date by which the candidate must meet with chair of examining committee

Year II, September (option 1) – Core Examination to be taken during designated week
Year II, February (option 2) – Core Examination to be taken during designated week

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULE – FIELD STUDY AND THESIS PROPOSAL

Year I, May 31 – Date by which candidate must declare intention to take examination

Year II: May 15 – Date by which candidate must submit the written components of the Field Study. The hearing date will be determined by the candidate, in consultation with the committee, and will normally be 2-3 weeks after submission. If a student submits the written components earlier than May 15th, an earlier examination may be arranged.

Year II, June: Two weeks after the Field Study hearing the Thesis Proposal must be submitted to and discussed with the supervisory committee prior to being submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee for final approval.

Detailed Information on the Qualifying Examinations, including the Reading List, can be found online here.

DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS

Each Ph.D. student is required to write a dissertation, which is expected to be an original contribution to knowledge. The dissertation must be no fewer than 60,000 words, excluding bibliography and appendices, and must not exceed 100,000 words. All program requirements (including language requirement) must be completed before submission of a thesis for oral examination.

Each student must have a Thesis Supervisory Committee consisting of:

A Supervisor: This individual plays a key role in the direction of the student's research, providing advice and criticism on the planning and writing of the thesis. The chief supervisor **must** be a member of the Centre's Core Faculty. This designation ensures that the faculty member has the appropriate level of supervisory membership and primary responsibility for overseeing the Doctoral dissertation research. Although every effort will be made to accommodate the student's research preferences, the program cannot guarantee a particular supervisor. One individual faculty member is not permitted to

supervise more than two Centre PhD students from any given cohort.

A Second Reader: An additional core faculty or associate faculty member, preferably representing a different discipline from that of the supervisor, who provides another perspective on the formulation and direction of the thesis. The second reader assists in the development of the candidate's research plan and thesis proposal and generally reads and advises on the entire dissertation. In rare cases where the second reader has not read the entire dissertation, s/he may serve as an examiner. Associate faculty must possess supervisory privileges granted through their home department.

1. **Year II, Fall term**

During the first term of the second year of the program, the student, with the help of the Director, must choose an area of study for dissertation research and an appropriate supervisor. Selection must be made and submitted for approval no later than December 20th of the second year.

2. **Year II, September/February & May**

Qualifying examinations are to be completed in the second year of study.

3. **Year II, June**

Working with his/her supervisor and any other potential members of the advisory committee, the student must submit a dissertation proposal, including bibliography, by the middle of the 6th term of study. This proposal will be due 2 weeks after the Field Study, and will be the subject of a meeting between the candidate, his/her supervisor, and second reader.

4. **Dissertation**

As described above, each student will write a dissertation on an approved topic, based upon original research conducted while registered in the Ph.D. program, which will be presented in appropriate dissertation form for examination.

Please remember that the dissertation must be submitted to SGPS six weeks prior to the defense date. As you approach the completion of the dissertation, you must build in enough time for your committee to review your final complete draft**,** as well as sufficient time for you to make necessary revisions. **Very often this means submitting the complete draft of the dissertation to your committee in the term preceding the one in which you plan to defend.** When the supervisory committee is satisfied that the thesis is ready, it will be examined by a thesis examination board, chosen according to the guidelines for Ph.D. theses set by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS).

Ultimate responsibility for the quality of the dissertation lies with the student. Please note that the committee is there to provide intellectual advice and guidance but cannot "edit" the dissertation. Work on the dissertation begins after the student has passed the Core Examination in February of Year 2, since the Field Examination is closely related to the dissertation and is meant to kickstart the writing process. Students thus have roughly seven terms to complete the dissertation during their funding period.

DISSERTATION EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The dissertation will be examined by four faculty members, including an external examiner from another institution, an

examiner from another department at Western, and two program examiners. In rare cases, if the second reader has not read the entire thesis, s/he may serve as a program examiner. The committee is chosen by the Director in consultation with the supervisor. The student should not approach potential examiners on his or her own.

The student is required to give a 45-minute **Public Lecture** on the material of his or her dissertation on the day of, or the day before, the defense. Alternatively this requirement can be satisfied by giving a talk in the Theory Sessions **within the academic year of the defense**. If the second option is followed, the student must describe his or her research in a ten-minute opening presentation at the defense.

Ph.D. examinations are scheduled through SGPS using the following timeline:

6 Weeks to Examination:	Program must submit names of examiners to SGPS
5 Weeks to Examination:	Candidate submits the approved thesis to SGPS

Thesis submission guidelines are posted on the SGPS web site at **www.uwo.ca/grad**.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS, INCOMPLETES and FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In order to continue receiving funding, students must make satisfactory progress in the program. The term “satisfactory progress” pertains to completion of the language requirement, completion of course work, completion of qualifying

examinations, and progress on work for the thesis. All cases of "unsatisfactory progress" will be considered by the Graduate Studies Committee and may result in withdrawal of funding as well as withdrawal from the program.

a) Language Requirement
All entering students should discuss their schedule for completing the language requirement with the Director. Please note that a student cannot defend his or her thesis or graduate if the language requirement has not been fulfilled.

b) Course work
"Satisfactory progress" constitutes the timely completion of each course with a grade of 78% or above.

A student may request an incomplete (INC) without penalty on compassionate or medical grounds. In such cases, **the student must make a written request to both the instructor and the Director no later than the last day of class, no exceptions**. The written request must include a) the date by which the remaining work will be completed, and b) (where relevant) a certificate from a physician. This request will be forwarded to the GSC for approval. Permission from the instructor is not a guarantee that the INC request will be granted. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the student will not be allowed to carry more than one INC in a semester.

The INC will be changed to a grade only if the work is completed by the grade submission deadline for the term following. The student must notify the Centre that the work has been submitted. If a grade is not submitted by this deadline, the INC becomes a Failure. An 'F' grade resulting from an INC is final. The SGPS will not consider a revision of

the grade except on documented medical or compassionate grounds. Failure to comply with this regulation will constitute "unsatisfactory" progress according to the Centre's regulations and will jeopardize funding.

c) Qualifying Examination and Field Study

"Satisfactory progress" of the Qualifying Examinations includes a) the completion of the Core Exam in the second year (Term 4 or 5) of study, and b) submission of the Field Study by May 15th of the 2nd year, followed by a discussion of this submission. More information here.

d) Annual Progress Report

All students in Year III and beyond must complete an annual progress report with their supervisory committee. For the progress report the student must also submit a draft portion of the thesis. The student will discuss the draft material with his or her committee and complete the required portions of the report, to be submitted to the program Director.

e) Dissertation

"Satisfactory progress" in thesis work consists of a) choosing an area of study for dissertation research and a supervisor by the end of the 4th term of registration (December of Year II); and b) submission of a dissertation proposal, including bibliography, by the beginning of the 6th term of registration (June 1 of Year II)

APPEALS

Procedures for making an appeal are available in the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/appealsgrad.

pdf. Appeals may result in the raising or lowering of an original grade.

MAJOR CENTRE COMMITTEES

Membership of all committees is by election for fixed, staggered terms.

Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)
The GSC is the Centre's most active committee. It deals with all policy and practical issues pertaining to the graduate program: admissions, student progress, ranking of scholarship applications, approval of M.A. and Ph.D. thesis proposals, selection of courses to be offered, and more general policy matters relevant to the graduate program. The GSC also approves requests for reading courses, courses taken in other departments, and Incompletes etc.

Membership:
Director of the Centre (Chair)
Four (4) Core Faculty members
One (1) Ph.D. rep
One (1) M.A. rep

Steering Advisory Committee (SAC)
The SAC consists of three faculty members, two student representatives, and the Deans of the three faculties in which the Centre is housed. The faculty members thus form a liaison between the Centre and the Deans. Responsibilities of this committee are to promote the continued success of the Centre, and to provide advice on administrative matters and

issues relating to the direction and management of both the Centre's research and graduate programs.

Membership:
Dean of Social Science (Chair)
Dean of Arts & Humanities
Dean of Information & Media Studies
Director of the Centre
Three (3) Core Faculty members
One (1) Ph.D. rep
One (1) M.A. rep

Qualifying Examination Committee (QEC)
The Qualifying Exam Committee is responsible for the administration of the Core Qualifying Examinations, in accordance with the current Examination Guidelines.

Membership:
Three (3) Core Faculty members, one of whom shall serve as Chair

Nominating Committee
The Nominating Committee draws up an annual slate of new committee members which is submitted to the Core Faculty, who can make further nominations if they so wish. The purpose of this committee is to ensure a reasonable balance on other committees between members representing different intellectual strands in the program.

Membership:
Three (3) Core Faculty members
One (1) Ph.D. rep
One (1) M.A. rep

Equity Committee

The Equity Committee is a body of core faculty members, PhD, and MA students that oversee and coordinate issues having to do with inclusiveness and respect in the Centre and to seeks to promote a culture of inclusiveness and open dialogue. The Committee is especially concerned with developing ways to assure that the Centre welcomes members of traditionally marginalized groups and that its courses, exams, and other scholarly activities represent a diverse range of theorists and schools of thought.

More information about current membership can be found on our web site at
http://www.uwo.ca/theory/People/Committees.html

CORE FACULTY

Members of the Centre's Core Faculty are appointed from their respective academic units within the university, including the departments of Anthropology, English, Film Studies, French, Information & Media Studies, Modern Languages and Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies, Philosophy & Religion at Kings' University College, and Global Studies at Huron University College. Core membership is required in order to supervise Master's and Doctoral theses within the Centre.

Imants Baruss (Psychology, King's University College) – B.Sc. University of Toronto; M.Sc. University of Calgary; Ph.D. University of Regina. Research Areas: Consciousness Studies, Postmaterialism, Mathematical Modelling.

Nandita Biswas Mellamphy (Political Science) – B.A., Manitoba; M.A., Western; Ph.D., Toronto. Research Interests: situated at the intersection of Political Theory, Post-Humanism, and Continental Philosophy within the context of contemporary complexifying international societies.

Tim Blackmore (Information and Media Studies) – BA, M.A., Ph.D., York. Research interests: war and technology, the body, self, popular culture, art; trauma and crisis in narrative structures and memory; graphic novels, comics of all kinds; theorizing technology; science fiction and the Machinic Imagination.

Janelle Blankenship (Film Studies) – BA, Truman State; M.A. Texas-Arlington; Ph.D. Duke, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women,

Brown University (2004-2005), Faculty Fellow, New York University (2005-2007). Research interests: Frankfurt School; media history and film; phenomenology of perception; theories of temporality, nature and utopia; literacy/critical theory; 19th-20th century German literature.

Jonathan Boulter (English) – BA, M.A., McMaster; Ph.D., Western. Research interests: psychoanalysis, poststructuralism, literary theory, Beckett, digital culture, gaming.

Antonio Calcagno (Philosophy and Religious Studies, King's University College) – BA, University of Toronto; M.A., University of Louvain; Ph.D, University of Guelph. Research interests: I have special interests in 20th and 21st century continental European thought as well as medieval and Renaissance thought. I work on questions of community and intersubjectivity, statehood, interiority, consciousness, humanism and post-humanism.

Jonathan De Souza (Faculty of Music) – B.Mus Western; M.Mus Royal Holloway; PhD University of Chicago. Music and sound, Phenomenology, Embodiment, Technology/technique, Aesthetics.

Russell Duvernoy (Philosophy at King's University) – BA Tufts; MA University New Mexico; PhD University of Oregon. Philosophy of ecology, Subjectivity, Ecological conversion, Process philosophies and speculative pragmatisms (Whitehead, James and others), 20th and 21st Century French Philosophy, especially Deleuze, Comparative philosophies of nature (Daoist, Mahayana Buddhist, world Indigenous), Climate change.

Joel Faflak (English) – BA, M.A., Ph.D., UWO; Awards: John Charles Polanyi Prize, 2001; SSHRC Standard Research Grants: 2003-06; 2006-10; 2010-13; Governor General's Gold Medal for Research Excellence. Research interests: Psychoanalysis and its histories; psychoanalysis and philosophy; 18th- and 19th-century philosophy; Romanticism; organizations of knowledge.

Helen Fielding (Philosophy & Women's Studies) – BA, Carleton; M.A., Ph.D., York. Research interests: phenomenology, feminist philosophy, embodiment, technology and art; philosophers include Merleau-Ponty, Heidegger, Irigaray, Arendt, Nancy.

Michael Gardiner (Sociology)– BA, M.A., Calgary; D.Phil, York (UK) Research interests: Bakhtin and dialogical theory; European social theory and social philosophy including poststructuralism, phenomenology, hermeneutics and critical theory; history of social thought; cultural studies, especially the culture of cities; utopianism in theory and practice; social ecology; sociology of the body; ethics; theories of everyday life.

Christopher Keep (English) – BA, M.A., York; Ph.D., Queen's. Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching (2010-2011); Associate Director for Graduate Studies CSTC, 2012 – present. Research interests: the history of writing technologies; the future of the humanities; the discursive construction of gender, race, and sexual orientation, especially in the nineteenth century; the psychogeography of urban spaces; hypertext, virtual reality, and theories of the post human.

Mary Helen McMurran (English) – BA, St. John's College; M.A., New York University; Ph.D., New York University. Research Interests: cosmopolitanism, origins of comparative religion and spiritualities, Enlightenment intellectual history.

Christof Migone (Visual Arts) – BA Concordia, MFA NSCAD, PhD Tisch School of the Arts, NY. Sound Art, Performance and Performativity, Conceptualisms, Curatorial Practice, Techniques of Museums, Failure Aesthetics.

Kevin Mooney (Music) B.Mus. Douglas College, UBC; M.A.; Ph.D., Columbia University. Research interests: Adorno, modernist aesthetics, works and fragments, authorship, archaeologies of knowledge, Weimar culture, Mahler.

Benjamin Muller (Interdisciplinary Studies, King's University College) BA, M.A. University of Victoria; Ph.D. Queen's University Belfast. Research interests: Borders and Borderlands, Critical Security Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Identity, Biometrics, Surveillance, Sovereignty, Architecture, Postcolonialism.

Tobias Nagl (English and Writing Studies) – BA; PhD University of Hamburg, MA Indiana University. Research interests: Film history and theory, silent cinema, experimental film, race and (post-) colonialism, European and German cinema, political modernism.

Allan Pero (English) – BA (Theatre), BA (Linguistics) M.A. Ottawa; Ph.D., Toronto. Research interests: modernism, critical theory, psychoanalysis, aesthetics, spatial theory, film, drama, visual art, Wyndham Lewis. My current research is

taking several paths: I am working on a book-length project exploring the cultural, historical and philosophical underpinnings of Camp in Modernism. I am also working on articles on the work of thinkers like Alain Badiou, Jacques Lacan, and Jacques Rancière.

Jan Plug (English) – BA, M.A., UWO; M.A., Ph.D., SUNY, Buffalo. Research interests: Enlightenment and Idealist philosophy, Romanticism, aesthetics, contemporary theory, including deconstruction and theory of community.

Tilottama Rajan (English) **–** BA, M.A., Ph.D., Toronto, FRSC (Canada Research Chair and Distinguished University Professor; Director CSTC, 1995-2001, 2012-2015; Interim Director, 2011-12). Guggenheim Fellow, 1987-88. Founder, North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. Research interests: phenomenology, deconstruction, post-structuralism; narrative theory, Romantic literature and theory; Romantic science; aesthetics and pathology in Romanticism; 19th-century German philosophy and its connections to contemporary theory; disciplinarity and organizations of knowledge from the Enlightenment to the twentieth century.

Gus Riveros Barrera (Education) – BA, M.A. University of Colombia, Bogotá; PhD University of Alberta. Research interests: Critical Theories of Space in Education, Space, Place, and Educational Opportunity, Education Policy and Politics.

Chris Roulston (French and Women's Studies) – BA, Southampton; Ph.D., Toronto; Research interests: Feminist Theory; Queer Theory; Deconstruction; Eighteenth-Century Women Writers; The Epistolary Novel; Eighteenth-Century

French and British Novel; Eighteenth-Century Constructions of Women's Friendship and Sexuality; Discourses on Marriage; Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Matthew Rowlinson (English) – BA, M.A. Toronto; M.A., Ph.D. Cornell. Research Interests: Psychoanalysis, Material culture, symbolic and economic exchange, rhetoric, nineteenth century poetry and poetics.

Scott Schaffer (Sociology) - BA, M.A., University of California; Ph.D., York. Research Interests: Contemporary French social theory; post-colonial and non-western social theory; social ethics; resistance and revolution; globalization and development. Key thinkers include Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Bourdieu, Fanon, Mbembe.

Joshua Schuster (English) – BA, University of Pennsylvania; MA, Université de Paris; PhD, University of Pennsylvania. My research focuses on American Literature and environmental ideas.

Sharon Sliwinski (Information and Media Studies) – MA, PhD, York (SPT). Research interests include the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School, psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic theory, but also visual studies (especially photography) and the broad history of ideas that fall under the term human rights (humanitarianism, crimes against humanity, genocide, etc.).

Matt Stahl (Information and Media Studies) – BA University California, Berkeley; PhD University California, San Diego. Creative/cultural/artistic labour and property, Labour theory of value and the “new reading of Marx”, Popular music and the recorded music industries, Genealogy of the recording

contract, Race, royalties, and intellectual property, Law as constitutive to modern social practice, History and prehistory of capitalism, Debt, austerity, and the media, Subjectivity, affect, emotion (e.g. the "production of subjectivity"), Digitalization and reorganization of music business models, Social and political theory.

Daniel Vaillancourt (French) - M.A., Ph.D., Université du Québec á Montréal. Research interests: theories of reading, mystical writings, travel narratives, birth of urbanism and urbanity in 17th century France, philosophy and aesthetics of Deleuze, semiotics.

John Vanderheide (English at Huron University College) M.A., Ph.D., Western University. Research interests: Literary and interpretive allegory; Comedy; Transatlantic Modernism and Postwar Literature; Adaptation theory; Deleuze studies.

POST-DOCTORAL and VISITING FELLOWS

Each year the Centre offers one full-year, or two one-semester, Visiting Fellowships (non-stipendiary) with a provision for library privileges. Visiting Fellows contribute to the intellectual life of the Centre community. Accordingly, they are encouraged to offer a public lecture or reading course on their research projects, and to participate in the activities of the Centre. These fellowships are intended primarily for individuals currently teaching or affiliated with an academic institution, though independent scholars may also apply. Faculty Fellowships are awarded at the Assistant, Associate, and full Professor ranks.

Applications for Visiting Fellowships, including a brief description of a research project and its relevance for the Centre (not more than 1,000 words), an optional project bibliography (up to 2 pages), and a curriculum vitae (C.V.) with the name of two academic referees, should be submitted to the Centre by **April 1st** of each year.

INFORMATION

For further Information please contact:

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