



University  
of Regina

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SOCIOLOGY AND  
SOCIAL STUDIES

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL STUDIES**

# **GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2026-27**



**GRADUATE PROGRAM  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY AND  
SOCIAL STUDIES**



## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This Handbook describes the graduate programs that are offered by the Department of Sociology and Social Studies, and the administrative practices that pertain to these programs. It is presented as a working guide to graduate students and their supervisors. For general university rules and procedures, please refer to the current Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Calendar. Students should be familiar with the regulations therein and note that they take precedence over all Departmental regulations. **Regulations contained in this Handbook are also subject to revision.**

**REVISED MARCH 2026**



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## I. Introduction and Overview



Graduate study in the Department of Sociology and Social Studies at the University of Regina traces its origins to the 1960s, a time of political and social rebellion in the community and the university. Along with many ‘foundational’ beliefs and structures, this was a time when disciplinary boundaries were questioned. The result was the growth of interdisciplinary studies and an increased emphasis on social relevance and public service within the university. Originally, Social Studies and Sociology were two ‘committees of instruction’ with the social studies committee focusing upon heavily interdisciplinary areas such as methodology, ecology, and communications and spawning research centres, while the sociology committee focused upon disciplinary studies. Still, in both areas, cross-listed courses, interdisciplinary programs and critical inquiry were the norm. In fact, sociology had no graduate program until the early 1970s, choosing to work through social studies to facilitate its graduate instruction. By 1976, when the two departments merged, over two dozen master’s students had graduated.

As it revised and expanded its graduate programs over the years, the department has been mindful of these traditions. Today, the graduate program retains the balance between disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies. The department regularly offers a core of theory and methodology courses, as well as courses in the four substantive areas in which department members have teaching and research strengths: environment and development, social justice, knowledge, science and technology, and political economy. Professors may also offer occasional special topics or directed reading classes based on their or students’ particular interests. It is important to keep in mind, however, that the department is small, so that the capacity to offer graduate courses beyond the core areas remains limited. The interests of faculty members are described in Section IX below. Students are expected to discuss their interests and plans with faculty and the Graduate Coordinator before their program is finalized or changed. Given this structure, the graduate program works best for students who are self-starters, able to carry through much of the work on their own.

The department offers graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Arts in Social Studies and Master of Arts in Sociology. These programs are typically completed within two years, although faster completion may be possible. Faculty regulations allow five years for their completion. The Sociology program is thesis-based, whereas Social Studies provides options for either a thesis-based or course-based program (see Sections II and III below). The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research also provides for a special case’ doctoral program and the department has accepted a few of these students over the years.

## II. Sociology Program

The Master of Arts in Sociology program (thesis-based) intends to give students a solid background in disciplinary approaches and methodologies and may include training in practical research techniques depending upon what research projects are underway in the university. To be admitted, students are normally expected to have an undergraduate degree in Sociology or equivalent. The program can lead to a 'final' degree – graduates often become researchers and administrators in government or the private sector – or to a 'preparatory' degree for doctoral or other advanced studies. Details of the program are outlined in Section IX.

## III. Social Studies Program

The Master's program in Social Studies (thesis-based) is an interdisciplinary program that provides an opportunity for a student to bridge social science disciplines. The program requires a course work component that is interdisciplinary and typically the members of the thesis supervisory committee will come from more than one department or faculty. To be admitted, students may have honours or four-year undergraduate degrees from the social sciences, or even from the humanities, sciences or professional faculties with some coherent concentration in the social sciences. The Master of Arts in Social Studies program can also lead to a 'final' degree for potential researchers and administrators, and it has been well received as a 'preparatory' degree for doctoral and other advanced studies. See the details for this program in Section VI.

M.A. candidates in the Social Studies (thesis-based) program are required to take four courses, two seminars (SOC 800), and write a thesis (eighteen credit hours). This program has no core classes, although Social Studies students often take Social Studies 801 and Sociology 802 or 804, the core classes for the Sociology program. Social Studies students are required to take at least one course in another traditional social science discipline besides sociology.

M.A. Candidates in Social Studies (course-based) program must complete ten courses, including SOST801, one social science theory course, and one social science methods course, plus seven approved electives. Students must also complete two semesters of the graduate seminar (SOST800).

## IV. Application and Entrance

Potential applicants apply to the [Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research](#). The application process is entirely self-administered, with all forms being accessible through the website of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. As part of the application, the Department strongly encourages applicants to submit a short (one to two page) statement of their interests and goals in pursuing a master's program. This will help the Department decide if it has the faculty capability to supervise the student, as well as help the department decide what the structure of the student's graduate program should be.

When all the materials required for the application have been submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the application is sent to the Department for consideration. The Graduate Program Committee reviews the application and makes a recommendation to Graduate Studies concerning acceptance or non-acceptance into the graduate program. The factors considered by the Committee are the academic record and background of the student, the letters of recommendation, the student's proposed area of concentration, the comments of Department members, the availability of a supervisor, and the number of applicants.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research makes the final decision concerning a student's entrance to the program. Recommendations of the Department are normally accepted and acted upon by the Faculty.

If a student is not considered fully qualified for entrance to a Master's program, the Department may require the student to complete a number of undergraduate classes, with a specified grade point average, in order to become fully qualified. Students with less than the normal four-year undergraduate program or with limited background in sociology or the social sciences should consult with the Department concerning the classes that are to be taken in order to become fully qualified.

If a student is considered by the Department to be very close to being fully qualified, the Department may recommend admission as a Qualifying or Probationary student. In this case, the student is admitted to a graduate program, but must fulfill certain requirements before being considered fully qualified. For example, a student who has completed a four year degree in English and has taken eight social science classes might be admitted to the Master's program in Social Studies as a qualifying student, with the requirement that three 300 or 400 level classes in Sociology be completed with an average of 75 per cent in order to become a fully qualified graduate student.

The Department and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research have responsibility for deciding how many students will enter the program, which students will be recommended for acceptance, and the status of the student upon admission (fully qualified, qualifying, or probationary).

## **V. Advisor and Supervisor**

Each student admitted to the program is paired with a faculty member who advises the student. The Graduate Program Committee assigns an initial advisor to the student upon entrance to the program. The student works closely with the advisor during the period when the student is primarily involved in course work. The initial advisor may become the student's thesis supervisor.

For planning and writing the thesis, each student must have a thesis supervisor or two co-supervisors. In addition, each student is required to have a thesis committee of three or more faculty members. The supervisor or co-supervisors are members of this committee and it is advisable to have the full committee formed in the planning stages of the thesis. In the case of Social Studies committees, students should consider asking faculty members in other departments to serve on their committees.

The supervisor should be a faculty member with an interest and specialty in the same area as the student plans to research for the thesis. Through a listing of specialties of faculty members, the Department is responsible for providing students with information concerning potential supervisors. Where two faculty members jointly have the expertise associated with the thesis topic, these two faculty members may become co-supervisors of the student. When the thesis committee is formed, the supervisor or the student is expected to consult other faculty members with expertise in the area the student is researching, with a view to including them as members of the thesis committee.

A student may approach a faculty member to request that the faculty member becomes the supervisor. It is incumbent on both the student and the supervisor to provide the Graduate Program Committee with information concerning who is the proposed supervisor or co-supervisors. Alternatively, the Committee may assign a faculty member to supervise a student.

A faculty member may be unable to supervise a particular student because of absence (sabbatical, retirement, or leave); limited interest and expertise; or because the faculty member is already supervising several other students. The Graduate Program Committee has the ultimate responsibility of finding a supervisor for the student, if the student cannot find one. The Graduate Program Committee and the student jointly select a supervisor, considering the availability and areas of interest and expertise of faculty members.

If a student wishes to change supervisors, a student may make such a request to the Graduate Program Committee. The Committee considers factors such as expertise and interest, number of graduate students currently being supervised, and faculty workloads when deciding whether a proposed supervisor is appropriate for the graduate student. The Committee can withhold approval and recommend an alternative supervisor.

## **VI. Graduate Program Committee**

The Graduate Program Committee is a committee of the Department of Sociology and Social Studies. All decisions of the Committee are reported to the Department and are ultimately Departmental decisions. Any member of the Department or any student in the Department can request that the Department reconsider a decision of the Committee.

## **VII. Graduate Program**

Students admitted to an MA program in Sociology or Social Studies should familiarize themselves with the specific requirements of their program (see Section IX, below). Before registering in courses and/or thesis hours, students must consult with their faculty supervisor (thesis-based programs) or advisor (course-based program) and receive approval for their selected courses. Please consult FGSR Registration Regulations for important rules about course choices. It is the student's responsibility to register only in courses that meet program requirements and to obtain their supervisor or advisor's approval before registering.

According to Graduate Studies regulations, a grade of 70% or higher is required in all coursework. As well, a minimum of one-half of all course credit hours must be in 800-level courses that are not offered in conjunction with undergraduate courses. These regulations also note that students are required to take at least one-half of their course work hours from instructors other than the primary thesis supervisor. Students should consult the current Academic Calendar of Graduate Studies and Research to familiarize themselves with other academic regulations of the University.

The list of specific courses offered by the Department is provided in the Graduate Course Catalogue, found online. Following is a summary of the types of courses offered.

- A. Seminars.** All masters' students must take Sociology/Social Studies 800 twice as part of their program. Soc/Sost800 is a departmental seminar course where graduate students and faculty members discuss academic skills and research that is being conducted in the Department. The seminar is intended for professional development and for Honours and graduate students to present and discuss their research proposals.
- B. Theory and Methods.** The theory and methods courses, Sociology 802 and 804, are required of all Sociology Master's students and are recommended for Social Studies Master's students. For the Sociology Master's, these are the core of the program, where students study and discuss sociological issues. Sociology 802 examines classical and contemporary sociological theories in detail. Sociology 804 presents methodological issues related to sociological research. Students in the course-based MA in Social Studies must take SOST801, Interdisciplinary Issues in the Social Sciences, which prepares students for interdisciplinary thinking and research. Each of these courses is taught once a year.
- C. Other Regular Graduate Courses.** In addition to the courses mentioned in B., the graduate program of Sociology and Social Studies offers students the possibility of taking courses in four areas of concentration in which faculty members in the Department have expertise: environment and development; social justice; knowledge, science and technology; and political economy. Since the Department has limited resources, it is not able to offer all listed courses on a regular basis. The Department, however, aims to offer at least one graduate course from these streams as a regular class or seminar each semester. Each year the Department will announce which course(s) is/are to be offered in the subsequent year. Master's students are strongly encouraged to take this/these course(s) as part of their program.
- D. Reading Classes and Upgraded Undergraduate Courses.** Given the limited resources of the Department, some graduate courses can only be offered as directed reading classes or as integrated courses (senior undergraduate and graduate courses offered jointly). When working out a graduate program, students may be requested to take one or more of these types of classes as part of their program. Alternatively, students may have an interest in a particular topic and request a faculty member to offer a directed reading course. Students should not necessarily expect faculty members to agree. Given the time commitments that such a course involves, a faculty member may not be able to do so.

**E. Undergraduate and Other Courses.** From time to time, students may wish to take an extra course (beyond the required credit hours of their program) or may be required to take an extra course as part of their program. These may be undergraduate courses in areas where the student's background needs upgrading, or they may be extra courses in which the student has a special interest.

**F. Courses in Other Disciplines.** Students in Sociology may, and in Social Studies must, take graduate courses in other disciplines as a required part of their program. This is particularly encouraged in cases where the student's research spans several disciplines. Students in Sociology may take courses in other disciplines where this has been approved by their supervisor. Students in Social Studies must consult with their supervisor or advisor in determining courses outside of the department that are relevant to their program of study.

## **VIII. Thesis**

### **A. General procedures**

In the thesis-based Sociology or Social Studies MA, the thesis is the primary research project in the program and the credit hours for the thesis constitute one-half of the total credit hours in the program. The topic of the thesis may guide the selection of courses, supervisor, and the structure of the student's program. For many students, the Master's thesis is a summation of their work in Sociology or Social Studies, and will be used to define an area of lifelong interest and expertise.

The Department expects that each student will identify a topic area for the thesis early in the graduate program, preferably in the first or second semester. The student is expected to do this in coordination with their supervisor so that the Master's program can be successfully structured. The selection of a thesis topic is associated with the selection of a thesis supervisor or co-supervisors, and the topic is further defined as the student consults with the supervisor. It is expected that the supervisor will be a faculty member with expertise or ability in the student's thesis research area.

Students cannot expect to find a supervisor for any possible topic. Rather, the student should be guided by the interests and expertise of the faculty members in the Department when selecting a thesis topic. Sometimes a faculty member is conducting a research project and recommends that the student select a thesis topic in this area. At other times, the student identifies a research area and obtains the agreement of a faculty member to supervise the thesis. In some circumstances, two faculty members may be co-supervisors of the thesis.

Each student will have a thesis committee of three persons – the thesis supervisor and two other faculty members. In the case of a Sociology program, this committee is usually composed of three department members, although one or more members may be from outside the Department.

In the case of a Social Studies program, the committee is normally expected to have at least one member from another department or faculty. In a Social Studies Master's program, the supervisor or one of the co-supervisors must be a member of the Department of Sociology and Social Studies.

The members of the thesis committee are to be selected based on their expertise, interest, and availability. For example, a thesis dealing with farm women's organizations might have faculty members with expertise in the areas of rural sociology, feminism, and history.

The student and their supervisor should carefully consider the range of expertise of all Department faculty members when constructing the thesis committee, to ensure that the committee is the most knowledgeable possible. The Graduate Program Committee is to be informed of the membership of the thesis committee and must approve that membership.

The second and third thesis committee members should be selected early in the planning or writing stages of the thesis. While the supervisor or co-supervisors are primarily responsible for ensuring that the thesis is of high quality, the other committee members are expected to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the student as the thesis is being written. The role of the other committee members is not merely that of a rubber stamp, but committee members should have the opportunity to participate in all stages of development and writing of the thesis.

The first stage in writing a thesis is to present a thesis proposal (see section B). Following this, and considering the comments of the supervisor and committee members on the thesis proposal, the student should begin the research and writing of the thesis. As the thesis is written, the student should give sections of the initial draft to the supervisor and other thesis committee members regularly. It is the responsibility of the supervisor and thesis committee members to provide comments and suggestions to the student promptly. Comments from the supervisor and thesis committee members should be constructive, pointing out any limitations, suggesting areas where there are gaps in the research and solutions to these, and commenting on the style and organization of the thesis. The student should welcome the comments and corrections suggested by the committee members, consider them carefully, and revise the thesis in a way that addresses the comments. The student should remember that there might have to be several drafts of the thesis before it is considered acceptable by the members of the thesis committee.

Once all three members of the thesis committee consider the thesis satisfactory, the student presents the thesis at an oral defense. See Department of Graduate Studies and Research regulations concerning [the oral defense](#) of the thesis.

## **B. Thesis proposal**

The student's thesis proposal is the first stage in the construction of a thesis. The thesis proposal (or work leading up to it) is to be presented at the Department seminar (Soc/Sost 800). In any case, the thesis proposal should be reviewed and judged to be satisfactory by the student's thesis committee. A thesis proposal should provide a clear statement of the thesis topic, or of the issue to be investigated, along with a summary of the argument that the student will make in the thesis. In the Department, we sometimes

refer to this as “the thesis of the thesis.” The student should be able to explain in a few paragraphs—perhaps a page or so—the essential points that they will demonstrate in the thesis.

The proposal should include a short review of the relevant literature and set the topic of the thesis within a theoretical or analytical framework. The proposal might indicate how the topic relates to what others have done in this field, how the student might address issues differently than others, or state the hypotheses the student plans to investigate in the thesis. This section need not be as complete as in the thesis itself, because the literature review may not be complete at this stage, and the thesis research may not yet have begun. A thesis proposal should summarize the research methods to be used. If the thesis is entirely theoretical, then the structure of the argument should be the focus of the proposal. A thesis proposal should also have a list of chapters, a short summary of what is to be examined in each chapter, and the anticipated number of pages in each chapter.

The thesis proposal should be relatively short and succinct, outlining the student’s research and writing plans. The thesis proposal is only a plan, and while it provides a general outline, there will be undoubtedly many details to complete and modifications of the argument as the research is being conducted. As the thesis is written, it may be necessary to complete several drafts, following advice of the supervisor and thesis committee. As a result, the completed thesis may be quite different from the proposal.

### **C. Structure of thesis**

The student should aim at writing a thesis that is no more than about 100 pages of text, not including tables, supplementary material, and references. The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research limits Master’s theses to no more than 150 pages in total. Each student should make sure they consult the [FGSR thesis formatting rules](#) to ensure that the final draft of the thesis conforms to requirements. Students are encouraged to examine already-completed theses in the Departmental office or the University Library. These give an idea of how other students have approached and organized their research and writing.

While there is great variation in how a thesis is structured, there are several common elements. Among the common elements of any thesis are the following:

- **Acknowledgements** – committee members and others who contributed; any financial support provided during graduate program should be mentioned.
- **Table of contents** – list of chapters, tables, figures, appendices.
- **Introduction** – overview of argument. The initial draft of this might be similar to, or a revised version of the thesis proposal. Once the remaining parts of the thesis have been completed, the introduction should be rewritten in a manner consistent with the final draft of the thesis.
- **Review of literature.** This should be relatively short and to the point, but could represent the result of much time spent reading and considering what others have written.

An initial draft of the issues raised in the relevant literature may be an important aspect of focusing the research topic. But remember that the supervisor and committee members have likely read much of this material themselves, so the final draft should be a succinct summary of the literature. The literature review should focus on key issues raised by other writers; summarize similarities and differences in their approach, and present hypotheses, claims, or questions that emerge from their analyses.

- **Thesis of the thesis** – this is the key argument, thesis, or set of hypotheses and claims to be addressed in the thesis. A Master’s thesis should have an argument to present or a set of hypotheses that are examined. That is, the thesis should not just be an amalgamation of a literature review, theoretical and methodological approaches, and research results. Rather, these should be organized around a claim or set of claims, focusing on prior arguments and claims, pointing in a particular direction, and leading to a conclusion. While a Master’s thesis does not need to be path breaking in terms of providing dramatic and original new research findings, it should bring evidence to bear on a particular set of claims and should be set within a theoretical or analytical framework.

- **Theoretical or analytical approach** – this is the framework within which the research findings and analysis are set. Each thesis needs a theoretical or analytical framework, and it may take each student considerable time to construct a theoretical or analytical approach and become comfortable using it. But remember that the supervisor and committee are likely familiar with this framework, so the final draft of the theoretical section of a thesis is best kept relatively short.

- **Methodological approach** – discussion of methodological issues and approach. This might be of considerable length in the case of applied research, relatively short in the case of an historical analysis, and minimal in the case of a more theoretical thesis.

- **Presentation and analysis of research findings.** This is the core of the thesis, and likely the most interesting section for others to read in that this is where new findings are presented. This is where the student presents the research and analyses the research findings. These should be organized around the theoretical or analytical framework adopted, addressing the hypotheses or claims of the thesis, constructing the argument the student is presenting, and pointing toward the conclusions to be drawn.

- **Conclusions.** A short summary of the findings, how the research findings and analysis relate to the “thesis of the thesis,” and what practical or social implications emerge from the research. Comments about broader implications and issues can also form part of the conclusion, but where these have not been researched, they should be addressed as informed speculations.

- **Bibliography, references, appendices.**

The above list should not be considered a chapter list; since there are many ways these elements can be organized. However, a thesis is expected to deal with each of these items.



## IX. Calendar Descriptions

### Department Description

The department has particular strengths in the following general areas: sociology of environment, development and sustainability; social justice; sociology of knowledge, science and technology; social science methodology and quantitative and qualitative social research techniques; gender and women's studies; rural sociology; sociology of food and agriculture; political economy; Marxist and critical theory; political sociology; Canadian studies; and social history. As well, the department maintains a commitment to a strong interdisciplinary social science program which can draw on the resources of other departments and academic areas.

The department offers a graduate program leading to the MA degree in Sociology or in Social Studies. Successful applicants for entrance to the Master's program will be advised and supervised in their work by a committee of faculty. The department offers a PhD degree in Sociology or in Social Studies on a special case basis.

### Thesis based MA Program Description

In addition to theory and methods courses, the graduate program of Sociology and Social Studies offers students the possibility of taking courses in environment and development, social justice, knowledge, science and technology, and other topics aligned with faculty expertise.

All MA candidates in Sociology and Social Studies are required to take 4 three credit hour courses and to take SOC/SOST 800 twice. For MA candidates in Sociology, two of these courses must be SOC 802 and SOC 804. The balance of the program consists of at least 18 credit hours of thesis research.

### Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology (thesis)

Successful candidates for admission may pursue the MA degree in Sociology if they have a BA or BA Honours degree or equivalent in Sociology.

### Degree Requirements

Course	Credit Hours
SOC 802	3 credit hours
SOC 804	3 credit hours
2 SOC 8XX or approved 8XX approved social sciences	6 credit hours
SOC/SOST 800 (Seminar)	0 credit hours
SOC/SOST 800 (Seminar)	0 credit hours
SOC 901 (Thesis Research)	18 credit hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 credit hours</b>

## **Master of Arts (MA) in Social Studies (thesis)**

The MA program in Social Studies is an interdisciplinary program that provides the candidate with the opportunity to develop a program bridging two or more social science disciplines. Students with a variety of social science backgrounds may be eligible for this program. Students interested in this program should contact the Graduate Program Coordinator.

### **Degree Requirements**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
Any 4 8XX approved social science	12 credit hours
SOC/SOST 800 (Seminar)	0 credit hours
SOC/SOST 800 (Seminar)	0 credit hours
SOST 901 (Thesis Research)	18 credit hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 credit hours</b>

## **Master of Arts (MA) in Social Studies (course)**

The program requires the completion of 30 credit hours in courses, including 9 credit hours of required cores courses. The remaining courses (21 credit hours) are selected from two or more of the social sciences, or approved courses in graduate programs other than the social sciences. A Program Advisor is assigned to assist students in developing a program of courses. The proposed program will be submitted to the Department's Graduate Program Committee for approval.

### **Degree Requirements**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
SOST 801	3 credit hours
One 8xx social science theory course (list below)	3 credit hours
One 8xx social science methods course (list below)	3 credit hours
SOC/SOST 800 (Seminar)	0 credit hours
SOC/SOST 800 (Seminar)	0 credit hours
7 - 8xx social sciences or other approved courses	21 credit hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 credit hours</b>

### **Social Science Theory Courses:**

ANTH 808, ECON 802, GEOG 822, GEOG 834, HIST 800, INDG 800, JS 801, PSCI 812, PSCI 813, PSCI 814, PSYC 800, PSYC 820, RLST 802, SOPT 800, SOPT 801, SOC 802, SOC 803, SOC 806, WGST 800

### **Social Science Methods Courses:**

ANTH 853, ECON 830, GEOG 805, HIST 900, PSYC 801, PSYC 802, RLST 810, SOC 804, SOC 805

Courses outside of prescribed list may be approved by the academic unit.

### **Courses from other faculties, schools and programs:**

In addition to courses from the social sciences, courses in other faculties, schools and programs whose subject matter is significantly based on, or closely aligned to, the social sciences may be included in a student's program. The following faculties, schools and programs contain such courses: Business Administration, Education, Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy, Journalism, Justice and Police Studies, Kinesiology and Health Studies, and Social Work. The selection and inclusion of such courses must be approved by the student's advisor, the Department's Graduate Program Committee, and the Arts Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies).

The social sciences include: Anthropology, Economics, Geography and Environmental Studies, History, Justice Studies, Politics and International Studies, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology and Social Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies.

### **Directed Reading Courses:**

No more than half of a student's coursework can consist of directed reading courses. Each of these must be approved by the student's Program Advisor and the instructor of the course. Directed reading courses will only be approved when a course can be made that such courses are of key importance to the student's program.

### **Integrated Courses:**

Students are reminded that if they received credit for an integrated course (a combined senior undergraduate and graduate course) during their undergraduate programs, they may not take the course again for credit at the graduate level. An exception is seminar format courses (SOC 404/804), which may be repeated, but the method of grading at the graduate level will be as Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.



## Course Descriptions

For up-to-date course descriptions, please consult the [FGSR Course Catalogue](#).

### Summary of Graduate Curriculum in Sociology and Social Studies

SOC 800 Graduate Seminar (Fall and Winter Semesters)  
SOC 802 Advanced Sociological Theory I  
SOC 803 Advanced Sociological Theory II  
SOC 804 Advanced Research Methods I  
SOC 805 Advanced Research Methods II  
SOC 806 Advanced Studies in Canadian Social Theory  
SOC 808 Seminar on Class and Political Economy  
SOC 830 Development and the Environment  
SOC 831 Sociology of Underdevelopment  
SOC 840 Knowledge, Science, and Technology  
SOC 841 Sociology of Knowledge  
SOC 850 Gender, Race and Ethnicity  
SOC 851 Crime, Deviance, and Normalization  
SOC 880AA-ZZ Selected Topics in Sociology  
SOC 890AA-ZZ Directed Readings (Variable credit 1-3)  
SOC 901 Research (Variable credit 1-15)  
SOST 800 Graduate Seminar (Fall and Winter Semesters)  
SOST 801 Interdisciplinary Issues in the Social Sciences  
SOST 811 Social Research Projects (Variable credit 1-3)  
SOST 880AA-ZZ Selected Topics in Social Studies  
SOST 890AA-ZZ Directed Readings (Variable credit 1-3)  
SOST 901 Research (Variable credit 1-15)

## X. Faculty Members and Fields of Specialty

### CHOW, H.



BA (Hon), MA, PhD (Toronto), Grad Cert BS (Ontario Theological Seminary), Dip Clinical & Pastoral Counselling (Institute of Counselling, UK); *Professor and Department Head*

Criminology and criminal justice; immigration & multiculturalism; the sociology of education; the sociology of religion; social gerontology; survey research & quantitative analysis

### CIUPA, K.



BA (Hons) (Brock), MA (York), JD (Windsor), PhD (Queen Mary U. of London); *Associate Professor*

Political economy; development; extractive industries; Latin America; environment; international law; social movements; indigenous rights

### FLETCHER, A.



BA, PhD (Regina), MA (York); *Professor and Graduate Program Co-ordinator*

Gender; sociology of disaster; environment; climate change; agriculture; rural communities; qualitative research methods; critical realism

### JURDI-HAGE, R.



BA, MS (American U. of Beirut), PhD (Western Ontario); *Associate Professor*

Population health; health information, statistics & survey; at risk & vulnerable populations; risk, causation & prevention; immigration & settlement; postsecondary students' experiences and outcomes

### KEOWN, L.A.



BA, MA, PhD (Calgary); *Associate Professor; Cross-appointed to the Department of Criminology*

Canadian Criminal Justice System, with expertise in mixed methods or advanced quantitative techniques

### MAGNAN, A.



BSc (Saskatchewan), MA (Regina), PhD (Toronto); *Professor*

Political economy; sociology of agriculture and food; rural sociology; financialization; sociological theory

## VÁSQUEZ, J.



BEEd (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador), MA (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, FLACSO), EdD (La Salle), PhD (Massachusetts-Amherst, USA); *Assistant Professor*

Global and transnational sociology; sociological theory; comparative-historical methods; Du Boisian sociology; race and ethnicity; Latin America

## PROFESSORS EMERITI

**DIAZ, H.P.**, BA (Chile), MA, PhD (York)

**GINGRICH, P.A.**, BA (Western Ontario), MA (Toronto)

**HANSON, C.**, BEEd (Saskatchewan), MA Ed (St. Francis Xavier), PhD (British Columbia)

**HAYFORD, A.M.**, BA (Barnard College), MA, PhD (Michigan)

**JAFFE, J.** AB (Hons) (Ohio), MS, PhD (Cornell)

**KNUTTILA, M.**, BA, MA (Regina), PhD (Toronto)

**POLSTER, C.**, BA (Queen's), MA, PhD (York)

**STIRLING, R.M.**, BSA (Saskatchewan), MA (Alberta), PhD (Indiana)



## **XI. Financial Assistance**

**Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.** A number of scholarships and awards are available to students each year. Please visit the [Graduate Scholarships and Funding](#) page for information on eligibility criteria and application procedures. Some FGSR awards including the Graduate Student Base Funding (GSBF) awards, UR Scholars Award, Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs), and Thesis-Only Scholarships are administered by the Department. Please contact the Graduate Coordinator or Department Administrator for further information.

### **FGSR Funding/Special Awards**

- FGSR - Aboriginal Graduate Awards Program
- FGSR - Graduate Student Travel Award
- FGSR - Graduate Studies Research Fellowship (GRF) (by nomination only)
- FGSR - Graduate Studies Scholarship (GSS)
- FGSR - Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA)
- FGSR - Graduate Teaching Fellowship (GTF)
- FGSR - Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Graduate Scholarship
- FGSR - Saskatchewan Innovation Entrance Scholarship (by nomination only)
- FGSR – Chancellor’s Fellowship Entrance Award
- FGSR – Indigenous Entrance Award
- FGSR - Tri-Council Enhancements
- Governor General's Academic Gold Medal (Convocation Award - Spring)
- President's Distinguished Graduate Student Award (Convocation Award - Fall)

**External Funding.** Students are encouraged to seek external funding for their graduate programs. Thesis-based MA students (Sociology or Social Studies) who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents may apply for the Canada Graduate Scholarship offered by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The deadline for these awards, valued at \$17,500, is typically in the late Fall. Please visit SSHRC online for [application procedures](#).

### **Departmental Student Assistance Budget**

The department has base budget funding from the Faculty of Arts for teaching assistants. These funds are used to hire seminar leaders and markers in the undergraduate program, with priority given to the large introductory sections and the core classes in statistics and methodology. High enrolment 200 level classes also receive support if there are sufficient funds. These funds are granted on a priority basis to active graduate students who are eligible to receive the equivalent of 2 positions per during each of the fall and winter semesters. After graduate students have been awarded funding, the balance is apportioned to Honours and senior undergraduate students. These jobs are posted online each semester with a closing date for applications.

Student TA positions are often 120 hours per semester, but this can vary. Rates of pay are determined by the CUPE 2419 Collective Agreement, which can be found [here](#).

TA job openings are posted approximately one month before the beginning of the semester in which the position occurs. Job openings can be found on the University of Regina Human Resources [website](#).

### **Sociology & Social Studies Scholars Award**

Subject to available funding, this departmental award is administered every semester to students with a GPA over 80% who have not received GSBF funding or any major award over \$17,500. The amount of this award varies depending on departmental resources, but is typically in the range of \$200 to \$250. Students in “maintenance of candidacy” status (i.e., students who have completed all required credit hours but remain registered while finishing their thesis or other requirement) are not eligible for this award.

### **Student Research Grants – up to \$ 1,000**

Graduate students in the active research phase of their Sociology or Social Studies program (including PhD dissertations, MA theses, or research practicum courses) may apply for a research grant. Students are eligible to apply for only one grant per project. Students who have received no previous grant will be given preference over those who have.

Procedures:

- a written application must be submitted to the Department Chair, outlining the research to be supported and detailing the anticipated expenses
- a letter of support from the supervising faculty member must be submitted
- all research plans must have received approval from the Ethics Review Committee, when applicable
- recipients must submit a report upon completion of the project outlining the use of the funds and providing receipts documenting expenditures
- no grant may exceed \$1,000
- the committee has the discretion to determine the size of the grant in order to ensure fairness in the distribution of limited funding

### **Student Travel Awards – up to \$ 1,000**

Graduate students may apply for an award to support travel related to the student’s program of study. Students are normally eligible to apply for one travel award in each academic year. Awards will be granted based on the availability of funds, hence students who have received no previous award will be given preference over those who have.

Procedures:

- a written application must be submitted to the Department Chair outlining the purpose of the proposed travel and its relationship to the student’s program
- a letter of support from the supervising faculty member must be submitted
- recipients must submit a Travel Expense Claim form upon completion of the travel outlining details of the expenditures and, where applicable, submitting receipts
- no award may exceed \$1,000

- normally one award per student per academic year will be approved (exceptions can be made at the discretion of the committee)
- the committee has the discretion to determine the size of the award in order to ensure fairness in the distribution of limited funding

### **Entrance Scholarship \$ 3,000**

The Department of Sociology and Social Studies will normally award up to three \$3,000 entrance scholarships each academic year to the most promising students entering the program, subject to the availability of funding.

### **Scholarship for Continuing Students \$ 3,000**

The Department of Sociology and Social Studies will normally offer thesis-based students registered in Maintenance of Candidacy a maximum of three \$3,000 scholarships, subject to the availability of funding.

**Note:** All financial assistance – both that from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and from the department – is awarded in accordance with provisions of the Collective Agreement between CUPE 2419 and the University of Regina.

**The Department of Sociology and Social Studies requires that all award/scholarship recipients be in good academic standing. Any student who is under investigation for an act of Academic Misconduct will have a hold placed on their award/scholarship. An award/scholarship may be rescinded if a student is found guilty of Academic Misconduct. The student will not be eligible for any award/scholarship administered by our Department for a minimum of one semester.**

## **XII. Departmental Resources**

### **Library**

The [University of Regina Library](#) has an extensive list of material and electronic resources. The library subscribes to numerous electronic databases of social science research resources, as well as provides access to a variety of bibliographic and abstracting indexes, such as “Sociological Abstracts.” Reference staff answer questions of an informational and in-depth nature in person at the Information Desk on the main floor of the Archer Library or by e-mail. One-on-one consultations with librarians are also available by appointment. The subject liaison librarian for information on library collections and support for Sociology and Social Studies is Robert Thomas.



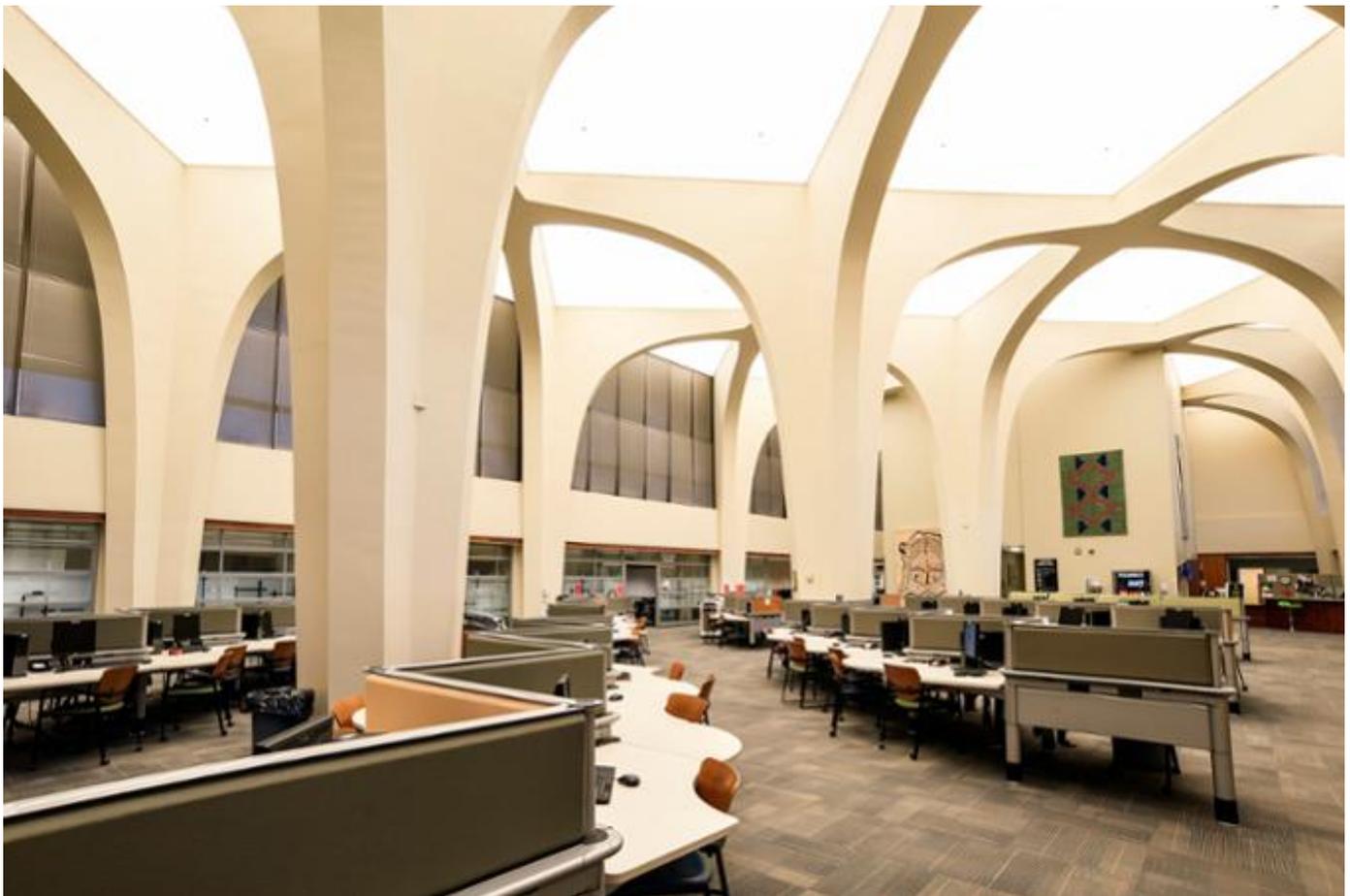
**Robert Thomas, MA, MLIS**  
**E-mail: [Robert.Thomas@uregina.ca](mailto:Robert.Thomas@uregina.ca)**  
**Phone: 306.585.4398**

## **Computer Labs (Public Labs and Printing)**

For a complete listing of computer labs, their hours, and software capabilities, please [click here](#). Students can access lab computers remotely while off-campus, allowing them to use university-licensed programs like NVivo from home. More information on remote usage can be found [here](#).

## **Information Services**

[Information Services](#) provides IT support and audio-visual services.



## XIII. Graduate Studies Regulations

### **Graduate Studies and Research Academic Calendar.**

You will find comprehensive information about graduate programs and academic regulations in the [Graduate Calendar](#).

**Ethics.** All research involving human subjects is subject to review and clearance by the [Research Ethics Board](#). Be sure to familiarize yourself with this process before proceeding to the data collection phase of your research.

### **Academic Conduct and Misconduct**

All students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the university's standards for academic integrity and conduct. The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's [Academic Integrity](#) page provides a number of valuable resources to help graduate students understand and uphold these important principles.

**Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities.** The Graduate Students' Association has developed a document on the [Rights and Responsibilities of Graduate Students](#). The policy has been approved by Executive of Council.

## XIV. Time Limit Requirements and Extension Application

### **Time Limit Requirements (Master's Program)**

Students in thesis-based Master's degree programs are expected to work with reasonable continuity and complete their program in a timely manner but have up to five years to do so from the time of first registration. In non-thesis based master's degree programs, students have a maximum six years from first registration.

### **Extensions**



Students must be registered in their program to request an extension. Time extensions may be granted for one semester or a period of up to four (4) months, and are granted to students who encounter problems while actively trying to finish their programs. The request is to be made at least two (2) months prior to the end of the semester. If no request is received, the student will be discontinued and must seek reinstatement to the program. A student who is seeking an extension must make the request through UR Self Service → Students → Graduate Student Requests. The supervisor will provide a letter defining his/her perspective on why the work was not completed in the allotted time. Evidence of sufficient progress to warrant an extension, as well as a statement of what remains to be done, and the timeframe for its completion, are required for an extension to be granted. Full time graduate students who have received approval for an extension must register in GRST 996AA in each

corresponding semester. Part time Graduate students who have received approval for an extension must register in GRST 996AB in each corresponding semester. Students must register in any formal remaining credit hours in addition to an extension course.

**NOTE: STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING AND COMPLETING EXTENSION REQUESTS PRIOR TO THE EXHAUSTION OF PREVIOUS TIME DEADLINES.**

## **XV. Program Changes and Program Transfer**

### **Program Changes.**

Requests for changes to an approved program of studies must be initiated by the student, supported by the student's supervisor, the Graduate Program Coordinator, the Associate Dean (Research and Graduate) in the Faculty of Arts, and FGSR. The student should complete the request through UR Self Service -> Students -> Graduate Student Requests. All program changes must be approved by the Dean of FGSR and in some instances vetted by an FGSR committee before they are considered official. If a student wishes to take a course outside of the approved course outline, it must be judged relevant to the student's research focus and not compromise the program in any way. The minimal percentage passing grade in all courses is 70% irrespective of whether the course is considered a formal course requirement.

### **Program Transfers.**

Students are to complete their request through UR Self Service -> Students -> Graduate Student Requests. Requests for a transfer is to be initiated by the student, supported by the student's supervisor, the Graduate Program Coordinator, and the Associate Dean (Research and Graduate) in the Faculty of Arts. Program transfers include:

- transfer of program route (thesis, project, practicum, course based, internship),
- transfer from one area of study to another within the same degree\*
- transfer in level (Master to Doctoral or vice versa)\*

Students seeking to change from one degree to another, or to a different academic unit, must submit a new application and pay the associated fee.

\*Please note, some transfer requests cannot be accommodated online. If you are unable to select the appropriate transfer option online please contact FGSR for a paper request form.

## Transfer from a Thesis-based Master's Degree to a Ph.D. Program

Academic units are expected to reserve this option for only those students with demonstrated superior scholarly performance at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The request is to be vetted through the appropriate graduate committee in the academic unit and the recommendation is to be made by the Head (or Dean as appropriate). Only after an academic unit is satisfied that a prospective Ph.D. student has demonstrated a standard of excellence in study and research consistent with the requirements for the degree will a recommendation be forwarded to the Dean of FGSR.

The following conditions are to be met before a transfer request will be considered:

1. The request will normally be made between 12 and 24 months of full-time study towards a thesis-based master's degree. This is to allow sufficient time to evaluate both the course work and thesis research progress of the candidate.
2. The student's academic performance in undergraduate and graduate classes must be of uniform first class (i.e. 80% or more) standing. It is normally expected that such candidates would be at the level sufficient to obtain, or be in very serious contention, for a national award, if eligible.
3. The student's research progress during the period of the master's program under consideration must exceed normal expectations. Typically, a research report written by the student will be provided to support this claim.
4. The proposed Ph.D. research topic should be a natural extension of, or be closely related to, the master's research topic. Therefore, it is expected that in most instances the already completed master's research will form part of the Ph.D. thesis.
5. The request must receive the approval of the candidate's supervisor(s) as well as the Head of the academic unit.

The completed recommendation for transfer will be sent to the Dean of FGSR for consideration. The proposed supervisory committee should be identified at the time the request is forwarded.

## XVI. Graduate Co-operative Education

[Co-operative Education](#) allows students to alternate between study terms and work terms, gaining valuable work experience while working towards their degree.

At the master's level there are two ways that a student can participate in a co-operative education experience. The first way is to register in one of the co-operative education programs offered at the University of Regina. Alternately, some units offer Graduate Co-operative Education courses, outside of a co-operative education program. Students who complete either a Co-operative Education Program, or complete two approved Graduate co-op work term courses will have a **Co-operative Education Designation** added to their transcript.

The student's academic unit must provide approval for the student to enroll in a co-operative education program or work term. You must be a full-time Master's student in good standing to be eligible to take a co-op work term. Academic units may have additional requirements for the students who are granted permission to take a graduate work term (these can be found in the course descriptions or with the academic unit).

### Process for Registering in a Co-op Course

1. **Apply for graduate co-op**
  - Student completes the [online application](#).
2. **Work with Career Office to find a work placement**
  - Once the student has their application approved, they will work with their unit and the Centre for Experiential and Service Learning (CESL) to find a placement.
3. **Approval of work term**
  - Once the student has an offer of employment, the CESL informs the student's academic unit and the FGSR of the offer.
  - The student registers for their unit's co-operative education course (e.g. ARTS 601/602, SCI 601/602, etc.).
4. **Complete work term**
5. **Assigning the final grade**
  - When the student returns from their work term, the person who signed the Approval of the Graduate Co-op Work Term form is responsible for submitting a final grade for the student. Departments may require a report or a presentation.
6. **Co-operative Education Designation**
  - When the student applies to graduate, FGSR will check if the student has completed the courses required to earn a Co-operative Education Designation. If so, the student will receive a "Co-operative Education" designation which will appear on the student's parchment and transcript.

### Requirements for Graduate Co-op Courses

1. Any graduate work term course is graded as a credit/no-credit course.
2. Graduate work term courses will not replace courses or requirements in a student's program.

3. Graduate work term courses are only available for master's students, not PhD students.
4. Students will pay tuition or a fee to participate in the co-op program. Tuition will be assessed in the semester in which the student is registered in their work term equivalent to the undergraduate co-op fees, plus all mandatory student fees, as well as the international surcharge where applicable.
5. Students who have completed all formal credit hours of their graduate degree program are not eligible to take a graduate work term course. Students cannot take a graduate work term course in their final semester of study or if they are in a Maintenance of Status course.
6. Students need special permission to take additional classes while enrolled in graduate work term classes.

**Note:**

- The CESL will help find placements for students enrolled in graduate co-operative education. The CESL will attempt to find graduate co-operative education placements with either more responsibilities and obligations than an undergraduate co-operative education placement or a research aspect that complements the student's graduate education. Obviously, the career office cannot promise research positions. Professors are encouraged to use their contacts to help in this process.
- Graduate students will follow the same work term requirements pertaining to undergraduate students, such as length of terms, suitability of work placements, and codes of conduct.
- International students should apply for a work visa two terms before they anticipate starting their first placement. The career office can provide students with a letter for IRCC stating that their co-op course is essential for the student to earn the Co-operative Education Designation.



## XVII. THESES & DISSERTATIONS COMPLETED (Past 10 Years)

Theses completed since 2018 can be found on the University's digital repository, [oURspace](#).

No.	Student	Degree	Year	Thesis Title
1	Brooke Jones-Delcorde	MA SOC	2015	Mental Health Deterioration Among Western Canadian Post-Secondary Students: An Analysis of the Contextual Stressors and Obstacles to Utilizing Effective Coping Mechanisms
2	Martins Samuel Onyejike	MA SOC	2016	Pesticide Utilization Practices, Exposure and Vulnerability of the Cocoa Farming Community of Ikwuano in Abia State, Nigeria
3	Brianna Verhelst	MA SOC	2016	The Systemic Nature of Personal Debt: A Critical Realist Approach to Analyses and Solutions
4	Stephanie Fathi	MA SOST	2016	The Caregiver Program: How Social Relations of Childcare are Reconfigured to the Detriment of Canadian Women
5	Akram Kangourimollahajlou	MA SOST	2018	The Depiction of Expert Women in Canadian Newspapers
6	Scott Fellner	MA SOC	2019	Living in XTC: An Autoethnography and Institutional Ethnography of My Experience Residing in a Government Funded Long-Term Care Institution
7	Curtis Shuba	MA SOC	2019	Distorting the Reality of Climate Change: Anti-Reflexive Narratives of Conservative Think Tanks in Canadian Newspapers
8	Angela Culham	MA SOC	2020	The Social Impacts of Flood on the Canadian Prairies
9	Kailah Sebastian	MA SOC	2020	Sources of Water Conflict: Flooding within Riparian Communities
10	Angel On Ki Chow	MA SOST	2020	Retail Therapy or an Urge to Splurge: A Study of Impulse Buying Among University Students
11	Maegan Rae Krajewski	MA SOST	2022	Branching Out: Examining the Possibilities and Challenges of Community Garden Expansion
12	Xiashengyou Wang	MA SOST	2022	Fear of Terrorism and Attitudes Toward Terrorists in a Sample of University Students in a Western Canadian City
13	Ebube Ogie	MA SOC	2024	Fostering Food Security through Local Culture: Insights from Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in Saskatchewan
14	Gale Holly Campbell	PhD INTD	2024	"Ours is a history of adapting": An Analysis of Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in Rural and Small-Town Saskatchewan

No.	Student	Degree	Year	Thesis Title
15	Cassandra Ozog	PhD INTD	2024	“Call him what he is—a cannibal killer”: Representations of Mental Illness in Canadian News and Social Media Through a Case Study of the Greyhound Bus Attack
16	Delasi Essien	PhD SOST	2025	Indigenization of Nursing Education Programs in Saskatchewan: A Critical Discourse Analysis
17	Adhika Ezra	MA SOST	2025	Governance of Homelessness and Extreme Weather Response in Regina

