

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4312S

Date of Senate Approval 02/09/12

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 33: Change the requirements for the major in Religious Studies

Effective Date: Fall 2012

- 1. Delete: On page 255, under Major in Religious Studies:**
- I. Required courses in the major—at least 33 hours, including: RELS 200, 280, 312, 313, 490; one course from those listed under Religions of the West; one course from those listed under Religions of Asia; one course from those listed under Interdisciplinary Approaches to Religion; and 9 hours of electives chosen from other RELS courses or courses from the above categories not previously used. The department chair may approve additional courses when the subject matter is appropriate to Religious Studies. No more than 6 hours of approved electives may come from a single department, and at least 18 of the required 33 hours must be at the 300-400 level.
 - II. Required courses outside the major—None.
 - III. Other departmental requirements—Completion of RELS 490 with a grade of C or better demonstrates major, oral, and computer competencies.

Religions of the West

CLAS	101	Latin I (3)
CLAS	103	Greek I (3)
CLAS	105	Hebrew I (3)
CLAS	250	Mythology (3)
CLAS	365	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (3)
HIST	343	History of Christianity (3)
LIT	360	Modern Jewish Writers (3)
LIT	365	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (3)
PHIL	255	Medieval Philosophies (3)
POLS	329	Religion and Politics in the United States (4)
RELS	215	Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World (3)
RELS	354	Greek and Roman Religion (3)
RELS	387	Judaism (3)
RELS	388	Introduction to Islam (3)
RELS	420	Religion and Southern Culture (3)

Religions of Asia

PHIL	313	Oriental Philosophies (3)
RELS	381	Religions of South Asia (3)
RELS	386	Buddhism (3)

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Religion

ANTH	100	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3)
PHIL	200	Introduction to Ethical Theory (3)
RELS	302	Sociology of Religion (3)
RELS	303	Philosophy of Religion (3)
RELS	330	Women and Religion (3)

Add: On page 255, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the major – at least 35 hours, including: RELS 200, 280, 312, 313, 398, 490; one course from those listed under Religions of the West; one course from those listed under Religions of Asia; one course from those listed under Interdisciplinary Approaches to Religion; and 6 additional hours of electives chosen from other RELS courses or courses in the above categories. At least 18 of the required 35 hours must be at the 300-400 level. The department chair may approve additional courses when the subject matter is appropriate to Religious Studies.
- II. Required courses outside the major– None.
- III. Other departmental requirements – Completion of RELS 398 with a grade of C or better demonstrates major competency. Completion of RELS 490 with a grade of C or better demonstrates oral and computer competencies.

Religions of the West

CLAS	101	Latin I (3)
CLAS	103	Greek I (3)
CLAS	105	Hebrew I (3)
CLAS	250	Mythology (3)
CLAS	354	Greek and Roman Religion (3)
CLAS	365	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (3)
HIST	343	History of Christianity (3)
HIST	388	Introduction to Islam (3)
LIT	360	Modern Jewish Writers (3)
LIT	365	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (3)
PHIL	255	Medieval Philosophy (3)
POLS	329	Religion and Politics in the United States (4)
RELS	215	Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World (3)
RELS	354	Greek and Roman Religion (3)
RELS	387	Religion and Culture of Judaism (3)
RELS	389	Jewish Women and Religion (3)
RELS	388	Introduction to Islam (3)

Religions of Asia

PHIL	313	Oriental Philosophy (3)
RELS	381	Religions of South Asia (3)
RELS	386	Buddhism (3)

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Religion

PHIL	303	Philosophy of Religion (3)
RELS	302	Sociology of Religion (3)

RELS	303	Philosophy of Religion (3)
RELS	330	Religion and Gender (4)
RELS	420	Religion and Southern Culture (3)
SOC	302	Sociology of Religion (3)

Impact statement:

The changes reflect the addition of the new RELS 398 as a required course, resulting in the elimination of 3 hours of required electives but the addition of two additional credit hours for the major since RELS 398, as proposed, will be a 4 credit hour course, and RELS 313 will become a 4-hour course. The reduction of elective requirements to 6 hours makes the current restriction of taking no more than 6 hours of approved electives from any one department unnecessary (and it eliminates a confusion that some students had about taking more than 6 elective hours within the Religious Studies department). This curriculum also updates some course titles, moves RELS 420 from “Religions of the West” to the course choices for “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Religion,” and eliminates ANTH 100 and PHIL 200 from the elective options. The impact of adding RELS 398 to the list of required courses should have minimal impact on students since the addition of a credit hour is effectively balanced by the elimination of a required elective. No additional faculty will be necessary.

Rationale:

The only significant change is with the addition of RELS 398, which has been proposed as a new course in a companion APC document. The reason for this addition is to “unpack” the intensity of RELS 490 by addressing issues of theory, method, information literacy, and academic research that are currently discussed at the beginning of RELS 490. Separating these issues from the actual research and writing of a senior thesis will not only result in stronger theses, but will help focus attention on, and improve the evaluation of, departmental SLOs. Demonstration of major competency has also been shifted from RELS 490 to RELS 398 and the language is updated here to indicate that change. The other noteworthy changes involve substituting upper-division RELS courses that have a significant theoretical or methodological component (RELS 330 and RELS 420) for the previously accepted lower-division courses offered by other departments (ANTH 100 and PHIL 200) in the distribution category of “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Religion.” This was done to shift some of the responsibility for instruction in theory and method – areas that are identified as critical to student learning in our departmental SLOs – to the departmental faculty at a more appropriate course level. The remaining changes are cosmetic and meant to update course titles and clarify requirements.