

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 5415S

Date of Senate Approval 03/19/15

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 46 (RELS): Add new courses to the Religious Studies curriculum:
RELS 326, 342 and 384**

Effective Date: Fall 2015

1. Add: On page 259, new course, RELS 326, Religion and Dance in South Asia:

326 Religion and Dance in South Asia (4)

The performance of religion through focusing on the mythology, ritual, history and aesthetics of Hindu and Muslim storytelling dances. The allied arts of music, theater, and temple sculpture are indispensable aspects included in our inquiry into embodied religion. We will also examine indigenous theories of audience- receptivity, Bollywood adaptations, transnationalism, and Western encounters reflected in photography, literature, and film that illuminate insider/outsider perspectives. The associated lab will include instruction and practice in these dance forms; no previous dance experience is required. See department chair.

2. Add: On page 259, new course, RELS 342, African Religions in the Americas and the Caribbean:

342 African Religions in the Americas and the Caribbean (4)

An interdisciplinary study of the history, beliefs, and practices of various religious systems of knowledge in the Americas and the Caribbean sharing cultural origins in West and Central Africa. Topics explored include spirit manifestation, divination as a “technology” of relationship, embodiment and religious expression, gender construction and performance, and cultural identity formation. Religious systems and geographic regions typically covered include Candomblé (Brazil), Santería (Cuba), Obeah (Jamaica), Kumina (Jamaica), and Vodun (Haiti and North America). See department chair.

3. **Add:** On page 259, new course, **RELS 384, Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Mediterranean World:**

384 Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Mediterranean World (4)

Recasting the more traditional examinations of the “medieval” period away from northern and western Europe, this course examines the ways in which Jews, Christians, and Muslims living in the areas surrounding Mediterranean Sea (including North Africa, Iberia, Italy and Sicily, and Western Asia) interacted with one another and negotiated their religious and social identities through conflict and coexistence, tolerance and intolerance, and cultural and scientific exchanges, from the early Byzantine period to the sack of Baghdad by the Mongols in 1258. See department chair.

Impact: These changes will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. Since all have been offered as ILS or special topics courses, they will not affect the department’s staffing or resource needs.

Rationale: The addition of these courses marks the normal development and expansion of departmental course offerings. RELS 326 has been offered in the past as an ARTS 310 course; similarly, RELS 342 and 384 have been offered as special topics (RELS 373) courses. This change simply adds them to the catalog as permanent courses.