

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 5615S
Date of Senate Approval 03/19/15

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 48 (RELS): **Change the descriptions and credit hours for RELS 200, 215, 280,**
Revised **312, 381, 386, 387, 388, 389, 499;**
 Change the descriptions for RELS 313, 330, 398

Effective Date: Fall 2014

1. Delete: On page 258, the entry for **RELS 200**, Introduction to the Study of Religion:

200 Introduction to the Study of Religion (3)

A thematic introduction to the academic study of religion: concepts of the sacred, myths and rituals, ways of being religious, and ideas of the afterlife. Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 258, in place of deleted entry:

200 Introduction to the Study of Religion (4)

A introduction to the academic study of religion that explores classical and contemporary theories of religion as well as comparative themes such as concepts of the sacred, myths and rituals, ways of being religious, and ideas of the afterlife through case studies drawn from various religious traditions. Fall and Spring.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs, although course enrollments are likely to increase slightly with fewer courses being offered each semester under a 4 credit hour curriculum. Since Fall 2013, five sections of RELS 200 have been offered with an average enrollment of 19 students. Depending on the room size, these sections have been capped at either 20 or 25, meaning that one to six additional students (a potential 24% increase) could be absorbed into each section at current staffing levels.

Rationale: The additional credit hour will be used to expand our coverage of the theories of religion as well as the addition of additional comparative themes, especially by the incorporation of more extensive visual resources.

2. Delete: On page 258, the entry for **RELS 215**, Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World:

215 Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World (3)

A comparative examination of the development of Judaism and Christianity, especially during the period between the establishment of Second Temple Judaism (c. 450 B.C.E) and the Council of Chalcedon (451 C.E), as expressed in a variety of primary documents in translation, both canonical and non-canonical. Our examination of these documents will be informed by contemporary methods of literary and historical criticism. See department chair.

Add: On page 258, in place of deleted entry:

215 Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World (4)

A comparative examination of the development of Judaism and Christianity, beginning with their common heritage in the Israelite tradition, but focusing especially on the period between the formation of Second Temple Judaism (c. 450 B.C.E) and the Council of Chalcedon (451 C.E), as expressed in a variety of primary documents in translation, both canonical and non-canonical. Our examination of these documents will be informed by contemporary methods of literary and historical criticism. See department chair.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs, although course enrollments are likely to increase slightly with fewer courses being offered each semester under a 4 credit hour curriculum. Since Fall 2011, our 200 level courses – excluding RELS 200 – have averaged just under 21 students. Assuming a cap of 25 (which is our standard enrollment cap if the room can support this number); four additional students could be accommodated (a 16% increase) with current staffing levels. RELS 215 is not required for the major or minor.

Rationale: The extra hour will be used to expand the coverage of the ancient Israelite religion as a precursor to Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity.

3. Delete: On page 258, the entry for **RELS 280**, Asian Religious Traditions:

280 Asian Religious Traditions (3)

A comparative examination of the development of the religious traditions that originated in south and east Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism. See department chair.

Add: On page 258, in place of deleted entry:

280 Asian Religious Traditions (4)

Course surveys the ideas, practices, and social institutions of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Daoist, Confucian, Shinto and South Asian Muslim traditions. Through an historical framework, we will explore various dimensions of these traditions, including myth, scripture, ritual, devotion, religious authority, sacred space and time, ethics, gender, performance, politics, and diaspora communities. Fall.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. This course has averaged just under 20 students per section since Fall 2011, and during this time it was a required course for both the major and minor. Under the proposed curriculum changes, this course will no longer be required for either majors or minors, thus making enrollment opportunities more flexible, with any potential increased demand for enrollment at least partially offset by the elimination of its being a required course. RELS 280

has been offered – and will continue to be offered – as both a Diversity Intensive and an ARTS course. It is also offered as one of the courses that can be used to fulfill the Asian Studies minor, so the credit hours will need to be edited under the information for that program.

Rationale: The additional hour will be used to develop further the design of this course as both diversity intensive – with expanded attention to diaspora communities – and as a course that addresses the way in which art – especially through performance – reflects the ideas and practices of religions indigenous to east and south Asia.

4. **Delete:** On page 258, the entry for **RELS 312**, Religion in America to 1865:

312 Religion in America to 1865 (3)

A survey of the role of religion in American history and culture. Topics include Native religions and the European missions; Puritanism; religion in the founding era; evangelicalism and revivalism; Catholic immigration; slave religions and religious abolitionism; religion and the Civil War. Fall.

Add: On page 258, in place of deleted entry:

312 Religion in America to 1865 (4)

The historical development and social context of religion in the United States during the colonial and antebellum eras. Topics include the European encounter with Native American religious traditions; Puritanism; religious rationalism in the founding era; evangelicalism and revivalism; antebellum Catholic immigration; African American and slave religions; and religion and the Civil War. Fall.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. Since Fall 2011, our 300- level courses– with the exception of the senior capstone RELS 398 – have averaged 17 students for each section. Assuming a cap of 25, which has been typical for these courses, then increased student demand under the 4 credit hour curriculum could be accommodated by a factor of 32%. The new curriculum also proposes dropping RELS 312 as a required course for the major, which should help mitigate student demand. This course is offered as one of the courses that can be used to fulfill the Africana Studies minor, so the credit hours will need to be edited under the information for that program.

Rationale: The additional hours for this course will be used to expand the coverage of Native American traditions and to allow more class time for the development of critical writing skills.

5. **Delete:** On page 259, the entry for **RELS 313**, Religion in America Since 1865:

313 Religion in America Since 1865 (4)

Topics include postbellum revivalism; the Social Gospel; science and fundamentalism; Jewish and Catholic immigration; new African American religions and the Civil Rights Movement; and religion and public life. Spring.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

313 Religion in America Since 1865 (4)

The historical development and social context of religion in the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present day, focused especially upon the intersection of religion and culture in areas such as immigration, revivalism, social reform, new religious movements, and the impact of religious diversity. Associated lab sections will focus on the development of critical thinking and writing skills. Spring.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. Since Fall 2011, our 300-level courses– with the exception of the senior capstone RELS 398 – have averaged 17 students for each section. Assuming a cap of 25 which has been typical for these courses, then increased student demand under the 4 credit hour curriculum could be accommodated by a factor of 32%. The new curriculum also proposes dropping RELS 313 as a required course for the major, which should help mitigate student demand. In addition, RELS 313 was offered as a Writing Intensive under the former ILS Program; the elimination of this designation in the current LAC Program will likely affect enrollment (indeed, for the Spring 2015 semester, enrollment is less than 50% of what it was when students were taking the course to fulfill WI credit). This course is offered as one of the courses that can be used to fulfill the Africana Studies minor, so the credit hours will need to be edited under the information for that program.

Rationale: This course was offered as a four credit hour Writing Intensive course under the former ILS program, and although the new LAC program has eliminated this designation, this course will continue to focus on the development of critical and practical writing skills that will be offered as an associated lab period.

6. **Delete:** On page 259, the entry for **RELS 330, Religion and Gender:**

330 Religion and Gender (4)

Focuses on how people who identify with various gendered experiences and expressions create and negotiate religious identities and space for themselves within the world's religious traditions. Topics, which are addressed from a comparative perspective, include creation myths, bodies and sexuality, narrative and performance traditions, rituals, and leadership and agency. See department chair.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

330 Religion and Gender (4)

Focuses on how people who identify with various gendered experiences and expressions create and negotiate religious identities and space for themselves within the world's religious traditions. Topics, which are addressed from a comparative perspective, include creation myths, bodies and sexuality, narrative and performance traditions, rituals, and leadership and agency. Associated lab sections will focus on the development of critical thinking and writing skills. See department chair.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. Since Fall 2011, our 300-level courses– with the exception of the senior capstone RELS 398 – have averaged 17 students for each section. Assuming a cap of 25 which has been typical for these courses, then increased student demand under the 4 credit hour curriculum could be accommodated by a factor of 32%. Under the former ILS Program, RELS 330 was offered as a Writing Intensive; the elimination of this designation in the current LAC Program will likely affect enrollment by opening more spaces. This course is offered as one of the courses that can be used to fulfill the WGSS major and minor, so the credit hours will need to be edited under the information for that program.

Rationale: This course was offered as a four credit hour Writing Intensive course under the former ILS program. As with RELS 313, the primary change will be that the instructional and practical writing components will be offered as an associated lab period.

7. **Delete:** On page 259, the entry for **RELS 381**, Religions of South Asia:

381 Religions of South Asia (3)

A study of the history, beliefs and practices of the major indigenous religions of south Asia (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism) as well as their development in relation to imported traditions such as Islam and Christianity. See department chair.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

381 Religions of South Asia (4)

A comparative study of religious diversity in South Asia, including the history, beliefs, and practices of the major indigenous religions of the region (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism) as well as their development in relation to the imported traditions of Islam and Christianity within their south Asian contexts. See department chair.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. Since Fall 2011, our 300-level courses– with the exception of the senior capstone RELS 398 – have averaged 17 students for each section. Assuming a cap of 25 which has been typical for these courses, then increased student demand under the 4 credit hour curriculum could be accommodated by a factor of 32%. This course is offered as one of the courses that can be used to fulfill the Asian Studies minor and International Studies major concentration and minor, so the credit hours will need to be edited under the information for those programs.

Rationale: This course has recently become a Diversity Intensive course; the additional hour of course time will be used to further the exploration of diversity and the negotiation of religious similarities and differences.

8. **Delete:** On page 259, the entry for **RELS 386**, Buddhism:

386 Buddhism (3)

A study of the life of the Buddha and his teachings as they influenced and transformed the cultures of South and Southeast Asia, China, Japan and the modern West. Topics include meditation, the participation of women, “socially engaged Buddhism” and Buddhist views on ecology, war, and human rights. See department chair.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

386 Buddhism (4)

A study of the life of the Buddha and his teachings as they influenced and transformed the cultures of South and Southeast Asia, China, and Japan as the transmission of Buddhism and Buddhist ideas and practices into contemporary “western” cultures. Topics include meditation, the participation of women, “socially engaged Buddhism” and Buddhist views on ecology, war, and human rights. Spring.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. Since Fall 2011, our 300 -level courses– with the exception of the senior capstone RELS 398 – have averaged 17 students for each section. Assuming a cap of 25 which has been typical for these courses, then increased student demand under the 4 credit hour curriculum could be accommodated by a factor of 32%. This course is offered as a Diversity Intensive and as one of the courses that can be used to fulfill the Asian Studies minor and International Studies major concentration and minor, so the credit hours will need to be edited under the information for those programs.

Rationale: The extra hour in this course will be used to expand attention to the emergence of Buddhism as a global religion, especially in the ways that Buddhist ideas and practices have made their way into contemporary “western” cultures (e.g. contemplative learning, engaged compassion).

9. **Delete:** On page 259, the entry for **RELS 387, Religion and Culture of Judaism:**

387 Religion and Culture of Judaism (3)

A study of the historical and cultural development of Judaism from its biblical origins to its modern expressions. Among the contemporary issues to be examined are Zionism and the rise and history of the State of Israel, varieties of contemporary American Judaism, and religious and philosophical reflections on the Holocaust. Odd years Spring.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

387 Religion and Culture of Judaism (4)

A study of the historical and cultural development of Judaism from its biblical origins to its modern expressions as a global religion. Readings are drawn from religious texts, such as the Torah, Talmud, Midrash, and the Zohar, but also from Jewish liturgy, Hasidic tales, Zionist thought, and medieval, modern, and contemporary Jewish poetry. Among the contemporary issues to be examined are Zionism and the rise and history of the State of Israel, varieties of contemporary American Judaism, and religious and philosophical reflections on the Holocaust. Odd years Spring.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department’s staffing or resource needs. Since fall of 2011, our 300-level courses– with the exception of the senior capstone RELS 398 – have averaged 17 students for each section. Assuming a cap of 25 which has been typical for these courses, then increased student demand under the 4 credit hour curriculum could be accommodated by a factor of 32%.

Rationale: The additional hour will be used to expand attention to the larger culture of Judaism beyond its explicitly religious expressions, especially as these concern contemporary Jewish and Israeli issues.

10. **Delete:** On page 259, the entry for **RELS 388, Introduction to Islam:**

388 Introduction to Islam (HIST 388) (3)

Explores Islam as a faith and way of life. In addition to studying the Quran and Prophetic traditions, it will closely examine the dynamics of Islamic law and its role in everyday life in addition to Muslim ritual and devotional practices. See department chair.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

388 Introduction to Islam (HIST 388) (4)

Explores Islam as a faith and way of life. In addition to studying the Quran and Prophetic traditions, the course will closely examine the dynamics of Islamic law and its role in everyday life in addition to Muslim ritual and devotional practices, Sufism, reformist and Islamist movements in the twentieth century. See department chair.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department’s staffing or resource needs. This course is “housed” in the Department of History, which is also converting to a four credit hour curriculum and thus is not offered by our departmental faculty.

Rationale: The additional credit hour allows for more time to be devoted to the study of reformist movements in the 19th century and the Islamist political movements developing in response to colonialism, authoritarianism, and globalization.

11. Delete: On page 259, the entry for **RELS 389**, Jewish Women and Religion:

389 Jewish Women and Religion (3)

Examines the role of women in Judaism from ancient time to the present; how they contributed to the development of this religious culture and how their lives were impacted by Jewish law and practice over the centuries. We also look at how the interplay of Jews and non-Jews affected Jewish women. Considerable attention will be given to Jewish women in America as well as the role of women in the development of Israel. We approach this topic using primary sources, secondary scholarly sources, popular media and personal interviews. See department chair.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

389 Jewish Women and Religion (4)

Examines the role of women in Judaism from ancient time to the present; how they contributed to the development of this religious culture and how their lives were impacted by Jewish law and practice over the centuries. We also look at issues of diversity such as marginalization, oppression, contributions, and resistance both within the Jewish community and between the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Considerable attention will be given to Jewish women in America as well as the role of women in the development of Israel. We approach this topic using primary sources, secondary scholarly sources, popular media and personal interviews. Even years Spring.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. Since Fall 2011, our 300-level courses– with the exception of the senior capstone RELS 398 – have averaged 17 students for each section. Assuming a cap of 25 which has been typical for these courses, then increased student demand under the 4 credit hour curriculum could be accommodated by a factor of 32%. This course is offered as one of the courses that can be used to fulfill the WGSS major and minor, so the credit hours will need to be edited under the information for that program.

Rationale: As a designated Diversity Intensive, the addition of an hour will allow for more attention to diversity issues such as marginalization and oppression both within the Jewish community and between the Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

12. Delete: On page 260, the entry for **RELS 398**, Theory and Method in the Study of Religion:

398 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion (4)

An intensive examination of classical and contemporary theorists and theories as well as the various methodological approaches employed in the academic study of religion. This course prepares students for the senior research seminar by addressing issues of information literacy and strategies for research in religious studies, and thus fulfills the major competency requirement. Prerequisite: 12 hours of RELS courses to include 6 hours at 300-400 level. Spring.

Add: On page 259, in place of deleted entry:

398 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion (4)

An intensive examination of classical and contemporary theorists and theories as well as the various methodological approaches employed in the academic study of religion. This course fulfills the Religious Studies information literacy and major competencies.

Prerequisite: RELS 200 and at least four additional RELS courses at the 300 level or above. Spring.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs. Since this course is designed primarily as the senior capstone for RELS majors and advanced minors, demand should not increase much beyond current levels. In the three sections offered since Spring 2013, this course has averaged 9 students with an enrollment cap of 15.

Rationale: This course has always been offered for four credit hours; the changes in the course description are for the transition to a four hour curriculum.

13. Delete: On page 260, the entry for **RELS 499**, Undergraduate Research in Religious Studies:

499 Undergraduate Research in Religious Studies (1-6)

Independent research under the supervision of a faculty mentor. An IP grade may be awarded at the discretion of instructor. May be repeated for a total of 6 hours credit. See department chair.

Add: On page 260, in place of deleted entry:

499 Undergraduate Research in Religious Studies (1-4)

Undergraduate research under the supervision of a faculty mentor. An IP grade may be awarded at the discretion of instructor. May be repeated for a total of 8 hours credit. See department chair.

Impact: This change will have no known negative impact on major, minor and university requirements. These changes will not affect the department's staffing or resource needs.

Rationale: This change will simply permit undergraduate research to be offered for four hours of credit when appropriate.