

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4122S
Date of Senate Approval 3/31/2022

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 36 (RELS): Change course descriptions for RELS 215, 312, 313, and 398
Cross-list RELS 215 with CLAS 215**

Effective Date: Fall 2022

1. Delete: On page 285, the entry for **RELS 215:**

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 285, in place of deleted entry:

215 Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World (CLAS 215) (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. Odd years Spring.

Add: On page 105, cross-listing of **RELS/CLAS 215:**

215 Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World (RELS 215) (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. Odd years Spring.

2. Delete: On page 286 delete the entry for **RELS 312:**

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.

Add: On page 286, 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 religions; and religion and the Civil War. Odd years Fall.

3. Delete: On page 286 delete the entry for **RELS 313:**

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.

Add: On page 286, 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, societal reform, new religious movements, social justice and civil rights, and the impact of religious diversity. Even years Spring.

Impact: These are primarily vocabulary changes to course descriptions that will have no impact on staffing or resources, or student progress toward degree completion.

Impact Statement from Classics: RELS 215 “Judaism and Christianity in the Ancient World” when cross-listed in the Classics Department will not have any impact on staffing, since the course is taught by RELS faculty. It will also provide a welcome additional 200-level civilization course for the department, which currently only has two 200 level courses in the curriculum: Greek & Latin Roots in Medical Terminology, and Mythology. The course should not be taught in the same semester as the CLAS 300 level Greek & Roman Religion course (offered fall of even-numbered years) in order to avoid under-enrolling both courses.

Rationale: These changes are meant to benefit students by providing better accuracy in course descriptions and frequency of offering, as well as eliminating some problematic terms in previous descriptions.

Rationale Statement from Classics: A course on ancient Judeo-Christian religious traditions will complement the offerings in ancient religions already offered in the Classics department – Greek & Roman Religion and Early Christian Art & Archaeology – by focusing in-depth study in the discipline of Religious Studies. RELS 215 as a regular cross-list with CLAS 215 will strengthen the curricular connections between our departments and provide majors and minors with a 200-level option for fulfilling elective departmental requirements.

4. Delete: On page 288, delete the entry for **RELS 398:**

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. Major competency is demonstrated in this course. Prerequisite: RELS 200 and at least four additional RELS courses at the 300 level or above. Spring.

Add: On page 288, in place of deleted entry:

398 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion (4)
A capstone course that is required for all Religious Studies majors but open to any student who meets the prerequisites, RELS 398 is an intensive examination of classical and contemporary theorists and theories as well as the various methodological approaches employed in the academic study of religion. Major competency is demonstrated in this course. Prerequisite: at least 4 hours of RELS courses at the 300 level or above. Every year.

Impact: There will be no negative impact on staffing or resources, nor will student progress toward degree completion be prolonged.

Rationale: This eliminates RELS 200 as a prerequisite since RELS 200 is being dropped from the curriculum. Overall prerequisites have also been reduced to encourage enrollment by non-majors. The course will either be offered in the spring or the fall depending upon need.