

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4322S
Date of Senate Approval 3/31/2022

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 38 (RELS): **Change the narrative description for Religious Studies**

Effective Date: Fall 2022

1. Delete: On pages 284, under the entry for Religious Studies

Professors Payne (Chair), Hardy, Zubko; Associate Professor Harvey

Participating Faculty: Holland Goldthwaite (Classics), Kaplan (Mathematics), Maitra (Philosophy)

The Department of Religious Studies seeks to engage students in the study of religion as an academic discipline within the broader tradition of the liberal arts. As a field of humanistic inquiry, the study of religion at UNC Asheville investigates both the development and contemporary significance of the human religious experience from interdisciplinary perspectives that incorporate a variety of methodological approaches.

As is appropriate to its setting in a publicly supported university, the department is nondenominational and non-confessional. We do not advocate for or against any religion; rather students explore a diversity of religious traditions, including those that have influenced the development of “western” culture (primarily Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), the religions of East and South Asia, and indigenous and diasporic religious traditions as a means to examine the larger role of religion in human societies. Courses in Religious Studies are inherently multidisciplinary and stress the academic skills of critical inquiry and effective communication that are appropriate to a wide variety of careers and graduate study opportunities.

Add: On pages 284, in place of deleted entry:

Professors Payne (Chair), Hardy, Zubko; Associate Professor Harvey

Participating Faculty: Holland Goldthwaite (Classics), Killian (Languages and Literatures), Maitra, Williams (Philosophy)

The Department of Religious Studies seeks to engage students in the study of religion as an academic discipline within the broader tradition of the liberal arts. As a field of humanistic inquiry, the study of religion at UNC Asheville investigates both the development and contemporary significance of the human religious experience from interdisciplinary perspectives that incorporate a variety of methodological approaches.

As is appropriate to its setting in a publicly supported university, the department is nondenominational and nonconfessional. We do not advocate for or against any religion; rather students explore a diversity of historical and contemporary religious traditions as a means to examine the larger role of religion in human cultures and societies. Courses in Religious Studies are inherently multidisciplinary and stress the academic skills of critical inquiry and effective communication that are appropriate to a wide variety of careers and graduate study opportunities.

Impact: These changes will have no negative impact on the faculty or other resources of the department or the university since they represent only an updating of appropriate vocabulary.

Rationale: These changes serve to eliminate problematic vocabulary (e.g., “western” religions) and to update the list of faculty who offer courses cross-listed as RELS.