

General Education Course Proposal

Proposed Course: PHIL 002 Exploring Religious Meaning Units 3
Prefix No. Title

Department: Philosophy School: Arts and Humanities

GE Category (Indicate one category only):

Foundation: A1___; A2___; A3___; B4___
Breadth: B1___; B2___; C1___; C2X; D___; E___
Integration: B___; C___; D___; International/Multicultural___

Existing Course___; Revised Course___; New CourseX

Course Included in Current GE Program___

New courses require the Undergraduate Course Proposal form in addition to this form.

Revised courses require the Undergraduate Course Change Request in addition to this form.

Proposed catalog description: Limit course description to 40 words using succinct phrases. Include prerequisites, limitations, lecture/lab hours. Indicate former course number, e.g., (Former Biol 105)

An introduction to the exploration of the many dimensions of religions. Topics include: tools and resources of the academic study of religion, the sacred/holy, symbolism, myth, ritual, religious origin and destiny.

Enrollment limit per section: 40

Expected number of sections per semester – Year 1 1; Year 3 2

Attachments:

1. A statement presenting the ways in which this course meets the Specifications provided in the appropriate section of the General Education Policy as well as in the Policies for Inclusion and Evaluation of General Education Courses.
2. A statement of elements common to all sections of this course, identifying content, objectives, required student activities, grading policy, representative texts, and an approximate schedule for the course. Required student activities include such things as papers, research projects, homework, laboratory and/or studio performance, recitations, participation, attendance, and exams.
3. A typical syllabus for a particular offering of the course.
4. Any special cost factors associated with this course.

Approval for Inclusion in General Education

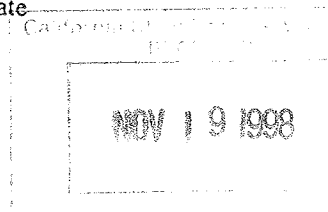
Karen Bell 3/5/98
Department Chair Date

Peo Anand 12/15/98
School Curriculum Committee Date
General Education Subcommittee Date

Brandt Kehoe 12/22/98
School Dean Date
Associate Provost Date

1/14/98

(10 pages)



Philosophy 2: Exploring Religious Meaning

3 units, no prerequisite

Semester, Year
Schedule # ?????

Catalog description: An introduction to the exploration of the many dimensions of religions. Topics include: the tools and resources of the academic study of religions, the sacred/holy, symbolism, myth, ritual, religious origin and destiny.

General Education: This course meets the General Education requirement for BREADTH, Area C2.

Instructor: Name
Office: Number
Office Hours: Times (minimum 5 hours/week)
Office telephone: Number
E-mail address: Email
Department Office: Music Building, Room 102; department hours: M-F 8:30-12:00; 13:00-17:00
Department telephone: 278-2621

Textbooks: Assigned texts may be drawn from primary sources, i.e., sacred texts, key shorter writings on religion and field of religious studies, and/or standard textbook introductions to religion or religious studies. The following texts are a representative selection of textbooks: Cunningham, Kelsay, Barineau, & McVoy, *The Sacred Quest: An Invitation to the Study of Religion*. Ellwood, *Introducing Religion from Inside and Outside*; Hall, Pilgrim, & Cavanaugh, *Religion: an introduction*; Monk, Hofheinz, Lawrence, Stamey, Affleck, & Yamamori, *Exploring Religious Meaning*; Schmidt, *Exploring Religion*; Smart, *Worldviews: Crosscultural Explorations of Human Beliefs*; Streng, *Understanding Religious Life*. The textbook chosen must contain or be supplemented by materials which highlight the experiential and expressive dimensions of religious meaning. For example, supplements could include: for art: Apostolos-Cappadona, *Art, creativity, and the sacred : an anthology in religion and art*; Dillenberger and Apostolos-Cappadona, *Image and spirit in sacred and secular art*; for literature: Brown, *Persuade us to rejoice: the liberating power of fiction*; Jens and Kung; *Literature & religion*; for architecture: Humphrey and Vitebsky, *Sacred architecture*; Spradley and Zemanek, *Myth, ritual, and architecture*; for music: Cone, *The Spirituals and the Blues*; and for gender: Bynum, Harrell, et al., *Gender and religion : on the complexity of symbols*; Comstock, and Henking, *Que(e)rying religion : a critical anthology*; Joy, Neumaier-Dargyay, et al., *Gender, genre and religion : feminist reflections*; Sharma, *Women in world religions*; Swatos, *Gender and religion*.

Fees: There are no additional fees associated with this course

Course goals:

1. Learn to read and understand about religions and religious expression in the humanities.
2. Provide the student with methods and models for better understanding the contemporary global context and the diversity of religious expression.
3. Provide the student with new perspectives on their own self via the examination and evaluation of traditional and contemporary problems and issues in the study of religious meaning.
4. Increase appreciation of the variety of understandings religious meaning.

Course topics: Topics for Phil 2 draw on a variety of resources. Typical issues concern the meaning of beliefs, ritual, the transcendent, community, moral codes, religious character, and sacred tradition.

A. Every section of Phil 2 will include treatment of the following topics:

- Topic 1: The Academic Study of Religion 1-2 weeks
- Topic 2: The Sacred and Holy 1-2 weeks
- Topic 3: Symbolism, Myth, Ritual 2-4 weeks
- Topic 4: Origin: Cosmology and/or Cosmogony 1-2 weeks
- Topic 5: Destiny: Eschatology and/or Thanatology 1-2 weeks
- Topic 6: Distinctive human expressions and religion: e.g., literature, art, music, architecture 2-4 weeks

B. Every section of Phil 2 will include treatment of at least two of the following topics: (2-6 weeks)

- Topic 7: Religious Experience
- Topic 8: Sacred Personages
- Topic 9: Spiritual Transformation
- Topic 10: Religious Communities
- Topic 11: Classification of Religions
- Topic 12: Gender and Religion
- Topic 13: Religion, Science, and Technology
- Topic 14: Social Justice and Religion
- Topic 15: Religion in a Free Society
- Topic 16: Religion, Animals, and the Environment

C. Every section of Phil 2 will include material in/from Western and non-Western religions.

Assignments:

Information on attendance, homework, class participation

Information on methods of testing

Writing assignments. *The University General Education policy states that each course in lower division GE must have a 2,000 word writing requirement.* Accordingly, each student will be required to complete writing assignments, consistent with the GE Policy, at a minimum of 2,000 words.

Final examination (according to CSUF policy and schedule)

Evaluation: Each syllabus will contain a grading policy.

Criteria for grading: Each syllabus will state the criteria that will be used in grading.

Eligibility for a passing grade: Each syllabus will contain a statement of the necessary conditions for passing the course.

Grades: Each syllabus will include a grading scale and an explanation of how grades are to be assigned.

Course calendar: The calendar will depend on the texts and approaches chosen. The class time devoted to each topic will range from 1-4 weeks.

General information:

Policy on attendance; Policy on missed or late work; Regarding Cheating and plagiarism; Students with disabilities; Other specific policies for this course.

Philosophy 2: Exploring Religious Meaning

3 units, no prerequisite

Fall 1999
Schedule # ?????

Catalog description: An introduction to the exploration of the many dimensions of religions. Topics include: the tools and resources of the academic study of religions, the sacred/holy, symbolism, myth, ritual, religious origin and destiny.

General Education: This course meets the General Education requirement for BREADTH, Area C2.

Instructor: Robert D. Maldonado
Office: Music 107
Office Hours: MWF 9-10; TTh 11:00-12:00
Office telephone: 278-2879
E-mail address: robertma@csufresno.edu
Department Office: Music Building, Room 102; department hours: M-F 8:30-12:00; 13:00-17:00
Department telephone: 278-2621

Textbooks:

Roger Schmidt, *Exploring Religion*; (Schmidt)
Apostolos-Cappadona, *Art, creativity, and the sacred : an anthology in religion and art.*
(ACS)

Fees: There are no additional fees associated with this course

Course goals:

1. Learn to read and understand about religions and religious expression in the humanities.
2. Provide the student with methods and models for better understanding the contemporary global context and the diversity of religious expression.
3. Provide the student with new perspectives on their own self via the examination and evaluation of traditional and contemporary problems and issues in the study of religious meaning.
4. Increase appreciation of the variety of understandings religious meaning..

Course topics: Topics for Phil 2 draw on a variety of resources. In this section, we will be concerned to explore 1) ways of introducing religion; 2) conceptual dimensions of religion; and 3) performative and social dimensions of religion. Integrated through this exploration, will be an assessment of art and religion.

Assignments:

1. Careful reading of course material prior to the day they appear on the calendar.
2. There will be six short (10 minute) quizzes spaced through the semester at the beginning of the class period. Format will be short answer focusing on content. While comprehensive to the course, the quizzes will emphasize material between the previous quiz (or beginning of classes for the first quiz) and the reading for the day of the quiz. The lowest quiz score will automatically be dropped from your evaluation. Missed quizzes may NOT be made up.

3. *The University General Education policy states that each course in lower division GE must have a 2,000 word writing requirement.* Accordingly, each student will be required to complete writing assignments, consistent with the GE Policy, at a minimum of 2,000 words. There will be two 5-6 page papers (approximately 1200-1500 words each). Writing assignments will be graded using the criteria outlined in the section "Criteria for grading" and following the rules and conventions of Standard English will be graded according to grammar, syntax, and style.
 - a. Paper #1 will be a comparison of a conceptual dimension of religion (e.g. symbolism or scripture) between a Western and a non-Western religious tradition. Further information will be made in a detailed handout of the assignment.
 - b. Paper #2 will be an exploration of a particular intersection between religion and art (e.g., artistic ritual expression within a religion). The topic is open for the student's choice, but must be approved by the instructor. Paper #2 topic proposals are due by Week 13, Class 1 and will be returned to the student by Week 13, Class 2. Further information will be made in a detailed handout of the assignment.
4. Final examination (according to CSUF policy and schedule). The final will be comprehensive to the course.

Evaluation: Credit for all the assignments will be assigned weighted percentages as indicated below:

Quizzes:	30% (i.e., each quiz is worth 6%)
Paper #1:	25%
Paper #2:	25%
Final:	20%

Criteria for grading: Grading criteria will be specified for each assignment, but in general:

"A" (100-90%) be awarded to work showing a high degree of competence, coverage of all parts of the question/issue, and thorough development.

"B" (80-89%) will be awarded to clearly competent responses, although there may be some weaknesses.

"C" (70-79%) will be awarded to competent responses, but much less developed and/or more superficial than the above. Responses which are primarily a restatement of the topic; lack focus or pertinent detail; remain general and undeveloped.

"D" (60-69%) will be awarded to severely underdeveloped or incomplete work.

"F" (0-59%) will be awarded to work with little or no understanding of the question/issue.

Eligibility for a passing grade: In order to pass the course, each student must have a final weighted percentage above 59%.

Course calendar: The calendar is subject to change. You will know about such changes, if they are required, by attending class.

- Week 1 Class 1 Introduction
This class will begin to raise the issues of the academic study of religion (**TOPIC 1: The Academic Study of Religion [from attachment 2]**)
Introducing Religion
- Class 2 What is Religion?, Schmidt, chapter 1 (**TOPIC 1**)
- Week 2 Class 1 The History of Religion, Schmidt, chapter 2 (**TOPIC 1**)
Class 2 The Holy, Schmidt, chapter 3 (**TOPIC 2: Sacred and Holy**)
- Week 3 Class 1 The Quest, Schmidt, chapter 4 (**TOPIC 2**), Quiz #1
The Conceptual Dimension of Religion
- Class 2 Symbolism, Schmidt, chapter 5 (**TOPIC 3: Symbolism, Myth, Ritual**)
- Week 4 Class 1 Concerning the Spiritual in Art, ACS, chapter 1 (**TOPIC 6: Distinctive human expressions**)
Class 2 Speaking and Knowing, Schmidt, chapter 6 (**TOPIC 3**)
- Week 5 Class 1 Craft: Making and Being, ACS, chapter 2 (**TOPIC 3**), Quiz #2
Class 2 Sacred Stories, Schmidt, chapter 7 (**TOPIC 3**)
- Week 6 Class 1 Scripture, Schmidt, chapter 8 (**TOPIC 3**)
Class 2 The Religious Classic and the Classic of Art, ACS, chapter 19 (**TOPIC 6**)
- Week 7 Class 1 God, Schmidt, chapter 9 (**TOPIC 4: Origin**)
Class 2 Reflections on Art and the Spirit, ACS, chapter 4 (**TOPIC 9: Spiritual Transformation**), Quiz #3
- Week 8 Class 1 Evil and Human Destiny, Schmidt, chapter 10 (**TOPIC 5: Destiny**)
The Performative and Social Dimensions of Religion
- Class 2 Holy Communities, Schmidt, chapter 11 (**TOPIC 10: Religious Communities**)
- Week 9 Class 1 The Origin and Use of Images in India, ACS, chapter 10 (**TOPIC 10, 6**)
Class 2 Patterns and Varieties of Faith, Schmidt, chapter 12 (**TOPIC 7: Religious Experience**)
- Week 10 Class 1 Judaism and Art, ACS, chapter 12 (**TOPIC 10, 6**), Quiz #4
Class 2 Salvation, Schmidt, chapter 13 (**TOPIC 5**)
- Week 11 Class 1 The Seven Functions of the Hands of Christ, ACS, chapter 5 (**TOPIC 8: Sacred Personages**), Paper #1 due

- Class 2 **Features of Holy Rites**, Schmidt, chapter 14 (**TOPIC 3**)
- Week 12 Class 1 **Types of Holy Rites**, Schmidt, chapter 15 (**TOPIC 3**), **Quiz #5**
- Class 2 **What is Religion?**, Schmidt, chapter 16 (**TOPIC 1, 11: Classification of Religions**)
- Week 13 Class 1 **The Religious Impulse in American Art**, ACS, chapter 8 (**TOPIC 6**)
- Class 2 **An Islamic Perspective on Symbolism in the Arts**, ACS, chapter 13 (**TOPIC 10, 6**)
- Week 14 Class 1 **Can Art Fill the Vacuum?**, ACS, chapter 15 (**TOPIC 7**), **Quiz #6**
- Class 2 **Art and ultimate Reality**, ACS, chapter 18 (**TOPIC 4**)
- Week 15 Class 1 **When is Religion Art?**, ACS, chapter 20 (**TOPIC 6**)
- Class 2 **Theological Reflections on an Image of Woman**, ACS, chapter 23 (**TOPIC 12: Gender and Religion**)
- Week 16 Class 1 **Theological Expressions Through Visual Art Forms**, ACS, chapter 25 (**TOPIC 3**), **Paper #2 due**
- Class 2 **Review**

General information:

1. **Policy on attendance:** Attendance is required. More than two noted unexcused absences will result in course grade reduced progressively by thirds (i.e., A => A-; A- => B+; etc.)
2. **Policy on missed or late work:** Conflicts with the calendar of assignments should be resolved as early as possible. Except for emergencies and very special circumstances, arrangements must be made with me in advance. Missed work (except quizzes, see above) should be completed as soon as possible. All late work without an excuse approved by the instructor (e.g., medical) will have the grade reduced progressively by thirds each day it is late.
3. **Cheating and plagiarism.** University policy defines "cheating" as "the practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. It is the intent of this definition that the term 'cheating' not be limited to examination situations only but that it include any and all actions by a student which are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent and deceptive means." University policy defines "plagiarism" as "a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of another by representing the material so used as one's own work." Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Depending upon the seriousness of the action, the student may be penalized by an "F" on the assignment to an "F" in the course and the filing of a Cheating/Plagiarism Report to be placed in the student's permanent academic record.
4. **Students with disabilities.** If you are a disabled student, be sure to identify yourself to the University and the instructor so that reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation within the course can be made. Contact Services for Students with Disabilities, Madden Library Room 1049, 278-2811