

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
RECOMMENDATION

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve a New Academic Program: **Religious Studies Major (Bachelor of Arts)**

SUMMARY

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies invites students to integrate humanistic and social scientific approaches to develop a nuanced, critical, and sympathetic understanding of religion and to prepare for lives of learning and social engagement.

PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Rationale</i> | Religious Studies is a well-established, vital, and growing field of study. The strength of religion worldwide, the increasing diversity of religion in the United States, and the prominence of religion in global and domestic conflicts guarantees that religion will continue to be a critical object of inquiry. The complexity of religion makes it an ideal topic for critical and integrative study within an undergraduate liberal arts education. |
| <i>Program Distinction</i> | Currently, few public universities in Southeast Michigan offer a bachelor's degree in religious studies. A major in religious studies would be a point of distinction and competitive advantage for EMU in our region and should help to attract students to EMU. |
| <i>Curriculum Design</i> | The proposed Major requires students to complete 30 credit hours (6 required courses, 18 restricted electives). The proposed program is broadly comparable to undergraduate degree programs in Religious Studies at MSU, CMU, WMU, and GVSU; however, EMU's program is more interdisciplinary, as students will take one to four courses outside of the History Section. Also, allowing students to choose their capstone experience, whether a research project, internship, or another project of the student's design, provides a student-centered conclusion to their degree program. |

Projected Enrollment A robust student interest in the study of religion and growth in the History & Philosophy Department's course offerings and enrollments led them to propose this new major. Since 1977 Eastern Michigan University has offered a minor in Religious Studies. The minor regularly enrolls a strong cadre of students, many of them previously expressing interest in a major in Religious Studies.

The History & Philosophy Dept. currently has 24 Religious Studies minors, and projects that roughly half of these students would elect to major in Religious Studies if given the option. The Dept. further expects that the higher profile of the Religious Studies program brought about by the revision of the minor and the introduction of the major, a dedicated course prefix, new courses, and better scheduling of courses will lead to growth in the major.

The Dept. expects to graduate at least three to five majors per year once the program is established. All of the departments whose courses are included as restricted electives have stated that they intend to offer those courses on a regular basis. Some will be offered once or twice per year, and all will be offered at least once every two years. The Dept. plans to offer the new required course, RLST 300W, once per year. All other courses serve the General Education program or other major or minor programs, and offerings of those classes are justified by current enrollments.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Program costs will be absorbed by the current Academic Affairs budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



University Executive Officer

6/7/17
Date

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Chris Shell, Registrar
James Egge, Department Head, History & Philosophy

FROM: Michael Tew, Interim Director, Undergraduate Studies [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Religious Studies, Bachelor of Arts (New Program)

DATE: March 10, 2017

The attached proposal from the History & Philosophy Department and the College of Arts and Sciences for a new undergraduate degree program **Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies**, is approved.

The effective date will be determined following consideration by the Academic Officers Committee, Michigan Association of State Universities and the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents.

If you have any questions, please contact Evan Finley, Course and Program Development Associate (487-8954, efinley2@emich.edu).

cc: Rhonda Longworth, Interim Provost
Winifred Martin, Executive Assistant, Provost Office
Kathleen Stacey, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Kate Mehuron, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty Senate
Calvin McFarland, Director, University Advising and Career Development
Pat Cygnar, Director, Community College Relations
Colleen Kibin, Assistant Director, Community College Relations
Sarah Kersey Otto, Director, Career Development & Outreach
Extended Programs
John Feldkamp, Assistant Director, Honors College
Ramona Milligan, Coordinator, Registration
Carol Evans, Transfer Equivalency Coordinator, Records & Registration
Erin Burdis, Assistant Registrar
Karen Schiferl, Director, Student-Athlete Support Services
Mary Butkovich, Halle Library
Ann Richards, Assistant Director, Admissions Processing
Bin Ning, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director, IRIM
Original, Course and Program Development

Eastern Michigan University

2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog (Working Draft)

Religious Studies | BA

New Program | Effective Date TBD

The effective date will be determined following consideration by the Academic Officers Committee, Michigan Association of State Universities and the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents.

Learn

Opportunities

Department Information

History & Philosophy, College of Arts & Sciences

James Egge, Ph.D. | *Department Head* | 701 Pray-Harrold | 734.487.1018 | jegge@emich.edu

Advisor Information

Mary Strasma, Ph.D. | *Assistant Professor* | 701 Pray-Harrold | 734.487.1018 | mstrasma@emich.edu

Philip Schmitz, Ph.D. | *Professor* | 701 Pray-Harrold | 734.487.1018 | pschmitz@emich.edu

General Education Requirements:

For specific General Education requirements, click [here](#) (or print a [General Education Worksheet](#))

Major Requirements: 30 hours

Students considering a major in Religious Studies should meet with an advisor early in their university studies to map out a tentative course of study.

Required Area Courses: 6 hours

- [RLST 100 - The Comparative Study of Religion](#) | GEKH 3 hrs
- [RLST 300 - Theories and Methods for the Study of Religion](#) 3 hrs

Restricted Elective Courses: 18 hours

9-12 credit hours in the Traditions area and 6-9 credit hours in the Methods area

Traditions | *Three or four courses from the following*

- [HIST 203 - Global History of Islam](#) | GEGA 3 hrs
- [HIST 204 - Introduction to the History of Judaism](#) | GEKH 3 hrs
- [HIST 303 - History of American Religion](#) 3 hrs
- [RLST 304 - Early Judaism](#) 3 hrs
or [HIST 304 - Early Judaism](#) 3 hrs
- [RLST 306 - Hinduism](#) 3 hrs
or [HIST 306 - Hinduism](#) 3 hrs
- [RLST 307 - Buddhism](#) 3 hrs
or [HIST 307 - Buddhism](#) 3 hrs
- [RLST 334 - Early Christianity](#) 3 hrs
or [HIST 334 - Early Christianity](#) 3 hrs

Methods | *Two or three courses from the following*

- [ANTH 338 - Anthropology of Religion](#) 3 hrs
- [PHIL 215 - Philosophy of Religion](#) | GEKH 3 hrs
- [PSY 225 - Psychology of Religion](#) 3 hrs
- [RLST 202 - Religions in Conflict and Dialogue: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam](#) | GEGA 3 hrs
or [HIST 202 - Religions in Conflict and Dialogue: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam](#) | GEGA 3 hrs
- [RLST 275 - Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in the U.S.](#) 3 hrs
or [WGST 275 - Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in the U.S.](#) 3 hrs
- [RLST 362 - Black Women: Religion and Sexism](#) 3 hrs
or [AFC 362 - Black Women: Religion and Sexism](#) 3 hrs
or [WGST 362 - Black Women: Religion and Sexism](#) 3 hrs
- [SOCL 320 - Sociology of Religion](#) 3 hrs

Note

[ANTH 338](#), [PSY 225](#), and [SOCL 320](#) all have prerequisites. Students intending to take one of these classes should take the prerequisite course as part of their [General Education](#) program.

Elective Course: 3 hours

Choose one course from the list of restricted electives (not already taken) or from the following

- [ARTH 162 - Survey of Western Art I | GEKA](#) 3 hrs
- [ARTH 468 - Medieval Art History](#) 3 hrs
- [ARTH 469 - Baroque Art](#) 3 hrs
- [ARTH 476 - Art of China](#) 3 hrs
- [CLAS 301 - Classical Mythology](#) 3 hrs
- [LITR 251 - The Bible as Literature](#) 3 hrs
- [PHIL 228 - Global Ethics | GEGA or GEKH](#) 3 hrs
- [PHIL 260 - Existentialism | GEKH](#) 3 hrs
- [PHIL 291 - Introduction to Asian Philosophy | GEGA](#) 3 hrs

Note

Other courses may be counted as restricted elective courses or elective courses with the approval of an advisor for Religious Studies.

Capstone Project: 3 hours

Students majoring in Religious Studies must meet with an advisor at least eight months before their expected date of graduation to plan a capstone project. Advisors help students plan a project that builds on their coursework and helps them prepare for post-college career or graduate study. *Options for the capstone project include:*

Independent Research Project | Students work with a faculty advisor to propose and conduct research on a topic in the study of religion. Students considering graduate study are strongly encouraged to elect this option.

- [RLST 499 - Independent Study](#) 3 hrs

Internship | A student electing this option works with a Religious Studies advisor and a supervisor at an external organization to design and complete a project in which the student draws on their Religious Studies training to address a situation in an organization or community. This project will include a written report.

- [RLST 489L4 - Internship | GELB](#) 3 hrs

Minor Requirement:

This major requires a minor | For a list of available minors, please see [Academic Programs](#) or contact your major advisor.

Program Total:

Students must earn a minimum total of 124 credits at the 100-level or above.

Critical Graduation Information

The following are minimum requirements for all bachelor's degrees awarded by Eastern Michigan University. Some majors and minors require more than the minimum in one or more of the areas below; students are urged to consult the on-line catalog for the requirements of their particular programs.

- Earn a minimum total of 124 credits at the **100-level and above**. Courses with numbers below 100 will not be counted toward this degree requirement. At most 8 credit hours of physical education (PEGN) activity courses will be counted toward this requirement.
- Meet the requirements of the General Education program (see [information below](#)).
- Complete a Writing Intensive (GEWI) Course in your major.
- Earn a minimum of 60 credits from a four-year college or university; **courses taken at community colleges cannot be used to meet this requirement**. (Some formal program-to-program articulation agreements modify this requirement. See specific agreements for details.)
- Earn a minimum of 30 credits from courses taken at EMU.
- Complete 10 of the last 30 hours for the degree from courses taken at EMU.
- Have a minimum of 30 **unique** credit hours in their major and 20 **unique** credit hours in their minor for a total of at least 50 unique credit hours between them. Some majors that require 50 or more hours themselves do not require a minor; students should check requirements of the selected major in the undergraduate catalog to see if a minor is required.
- Earn no more than 60 credit hours in one subject area (prefix). Credits in excess of the 60 maximum will not be counted toward the minimum of 124 credits required for a bachelor's degree.
- Earn the minimum number of credits in 300-level and above courses in each major and minor as specified below - these credits must be earned in distinct courses; that is, no course can be used to fulfill this requirement in more than one major or minor.
 - Earn a minimum of 6 credits in 300-level or higher courses at EMU in each minor
 - Earn a minimum of 9 credits in 300-level or higher courses at EMU in each major that requires a minor.
 - Earn a minimum of 15 credits in 300-level or higher courses at EMU in each major that does not require a minor
- Transfer credit will be awarded for courses taken at colleges and universities that are accredited by one of the recognized regional accrediting bodies only if the courses are college-level (equated to 100-level or above at EMU) and the student earned a "C" (or 2.0 on a 4 point scale) or better. Transfer credit may be awarded on a case-by-case basis for college-level courses in which a "C" (2.0) or better was earned at institutions outside the U.S. or at non-accredited U.S. institutions; the internal review of such courses is conducted by individual departments/schools within EMU, and additional documentation may be required. *Please note:* EMU awards only credits for transferred courses; grades are not used in the calculation of an EMU GPA.
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in courses taken at EMU in order to graduate. In addition, a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 must be reached in each major and minor. Only courses taken at EMU and those applied to a student's major or minor will be used in the calculation of their major and minor cumulative GPAs. (Note: some programs may require a higher GPA - check with your program advisor.)

General Education Requirements EMU's General Education Program requires students to choose from a menu of approved courses in several different areas; do not assume that other courses in the same department or with similar names will fulfill these requirements. A detailed description of General Education requirements is available in the

General Education section of the catalog.

Students who transferred to EMU may have modified general education requirements based on Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) or articulation agreements; consult your academic advisor for additional information.

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

OUTLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

Use this outline to prepare proposals for new programs, including undergraduate majors and minors and graduate majors. Proposals should be submitted in narrative form, organized according to the following outline. Guidelines for submitting such proposals are on the following pages.

PROPOSED PROGRAM NAME: RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR
DEGREE: B.A. **REQUESTED START DATE** FALL 2017
DEPARTMENT(S)/SCHOOL(S): HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY **COLLEGE(S):** CAS
CONTACT PERSON: JAMES EGGE **CONTACT PHONE:** 487-1018
CONTACT EMAIL: JEGGE@EMICH.EDU

I. Description:

A. Goals, Objectives, Student Learning Outcomes

The study of religion at EMU critically describes, interprets, explains, and evaluates the variety of religious phenomena across cultures while fostering skills for life-long learning. Therefore our learning goals for students are:

- To analyze their own assumptions, presuppositions, and expectations about religion
- To examine religious beliefs, behaviors, practices, texts, experiences, communities, and institutions in context and comparison
- To employ multiple disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives in the analysis and interpretation of religious phenomena
- To demonstrate sophisticated understanding of religious phenomena
- To communicate clearly, persuasively, and respectfully
- To identify problems and develop solutions by gathering, analyzing, and assessing data, sources, and arguments
- To recognize how their own worldviews are similar to and different from those of others
- To view religion as a part of the human cultural, literary, and artistic heritage
- To understand how religions imagine and implement their visions of a just world

To help our students achieve these goals and to measure the success of our program, we have adopted the following learning outcomes for students:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two or more religious traditions.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two or more methods for the study of religion, and will use these methods to investigate and analyze religious phenomena.
3. Students will write clear, cogent, and persuasive essays about religion.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the conventions of the discipline by locating scholarly articles and monographs in religious studies, by citing these works using a standard form of citation, and by writing in the most common genres of religious studies.
5. Students will articulate what they have learned through their undergraduate study of religion and state how this study has helped them prepare for their postgraduate careers.

Our vision for the major aligns closely with the missions of the College and the University. This major invites students to integrate humanistic and social scientific approaches in order to develop a nuanced, critical, and sympathetic understanding of religion and to prepare for lives of learning and social engagement.

B. Program

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 30 HOURS

Required Area Courses: 6 hours

- RLST 100 - The Comparative Study of Religion (GEKH) 3 hrs [existing course to be cross-listed with RLST]
- RLST 300W- Theories and Methods for the Study of Religion (GEWI) 3 hrs [new course]

Restricted Elective Courses: 18 hours

9-12 credit hours in the Traditions area and 6-9 credit hours in the Methods area:

I. Traditions:

Three or four courses from the following:

- HIST 203 - Global History of Islam (GEGA) 3 hrs
- HIST 204 - Introduction to the History of Judaism (GEKH) 3 hrs
- HIST 303 - History of American Religion 3 hrs
- RLST / HIST 304 - Early Judaism 3 hrs [existing course to be cross-listed with RLST]
- RLST / HIST 306 - Hinduism 3 hrs [existing course to be cross-listed with RLST]
- RLST / HIST 307 - Buddhism 3 hrs [existing course to be cross-listed with RLST]
- RLST / HIST 334 - Early Christianity 3 hrs [existing course to be cross-listed with RLST]

II. Methods:

Two or three courses from the following:

- ANTH 338 - Anthropology of Religion 3 hrs
- PHIL 215 - Philosophy of Religion (GEKH) 3 hrs
- PSY 225 - Psychology of Religion 3 hrs
- RLST / HIST 202 - Religions in Conflict and Dialogue: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (GEGA) 3 hrs [existing course to be cross-listed with RLST]
- SOCL 320 - Sociology of Religion 3 hrs
- WGST / RLST 275: Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in the US (GEKH & GEUS) 3 hrs [new course]
- WGST / AFC / RLST 362 - Black Women: Religion and Sexism 3 hrs [existing course to be cross-listed with RLST]

Please note: ANTH 338, PSY 225, and SOCL 320 all have prerequisites. Students intending to take one of these classes should take the prerequisite course as part of their General Education program.

Elective Course: 3 hours

One course from the restricted elective courses or from the following:

- ARTH 162 - Survey of Western Art I (GEKA) 3 hrs
- ARTH 468 - Medieval Art History 3 hrs
- ARTH 469 - Baroque Art 3 hrs

- ARTH 476 - Art of China 3 hrs
- CLAS 301 - Classical Mythology 3 hrs
- LITR 251 - The Bible as Literature 3 hrs
- PHIL 228 – Global Ethics (GEGA) 3 hrs
- PHIL 260 - Existentialism (GEKH) 3 hrs
- PHIL 291 - Introduction to Asian Philosophy (GEGA) 3 hrs

Capstone Project: 3 hours

Students majoring in Religious Studies must meet with an advisor at least eight months before their expected date of graduation to plan a capstone project. Advisors help students plan a project that builds on their coursework and helps them prepare for post-college career or graduate study. Options for the capstone project include:

- An independent research project. Students work with a faculty advisor to propose and conduct research on a topic in the study of religion. Students considering graduate study are strongly encouraged to elect this option. Students register for RLST 499 Independent Study 3 hrs.
- An internship. A student electing this option works with a Religious Studies advisor and a supervisor at an external organization to design and complete a project in which the student draws on their Religious Studies training to address a situation in an organization or community. This project will include a written report. Students register for RLST 489L4 (GELB) Internship 3 hrs.

Students considering a major in Religious Studies should meet with an advisor early in their university studies to map out a tentative course of study.

Other courses may be counted as restricted elective courses or elective courses with the approval of an advisor for Religious Studies.

Please note: Students must earn a minimum of 9 credits in 300-level or higher courses at EMU in each major.

Courses will be offered on campus during the daytime Monday to Friday, and some classes will be offered evenings and online as well. Students will typically take RLST 100 as their first class and the Capstone as their final class, but HIST 300W and the restricted and unrestricted electives may be taken in any order. One possible pattern for completing the program would be as follows:

Fall first year: RLST 100 The Comparative Study of Religion [and ANTH 135 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, prerequisite for ANTH 338]

Winter first year: PHIL 215 Philosophy of Religion [and PSY 101 General Psychology Lecture, prerequisite for PSY 225]

Fall second year: HIST 204 Introduction to the History of Judaism

Winter second year: WGST / RLST 275 Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in the US and PSY 225 Psychology of Religion

Fall third year: RLST 300W Theories and Methods for the Study of Religion

Winter third year: RLST / HIST 307 Buddhism and ANTH 338 Anthropology of Religion

Fall fourth year: RLST / HIST 334 Early Christianity

Winter fourth year: RLST 499 Independent Study

Like the existing Religious Studies minor, the proposed major will be housed in the History Section of the Department of History and Philosophy. The History Section Instruction Committee and the

History Section faculty will provide faculty input, and the Department Head of History and Philosophy will provide administrative oversight and support.

Students will be able to complete this major, as well as a minor and the General Education program, within the 124 credit hours required for graduation.

C. Admission

There will be no admission requirements to the program beyond those required for admission to the University.

D. Projections

We currently have 24 Religious Studies minors, and we project that roughly half of our minors would elect to major in Religious Studies if given the option. We further expect that the higher profile of the Religious Studies program brought about by the revision of the minor and the introduction of the major, a dedicated course prefix, new courses, and better scheduling of courses will lead to growth in the major. We expect to graduate at least three to five majors per year once the program is established.

All of the departments whose courses are included as restricted electives have stated that they intend to offer those courses on a regular basis. Some will be offered once or twice per year, and all will be offered at least once every two years. We plan to offer the new required course, RLST 300W, once per year. All other courses serve the General Education program or other major or minor programs, and offerings of those classes are justified by current enrollments.

II. Justification/Rationale

Religious studies is a well-established, vital, and growing field of study. 569 four year institutions in the United States offer a major in religious studies, and these schools award more than 5000 bachelor's degrees in this major annually.¹ The strength of religion worldwide, the increasing diversity of religion in the United States, and the prominence of religion in conflicts global and domestic insure that religion will continue to be a crucially important object of inquiry.² The complexity of religion makes it an ideal topic for critical and integrative study within an undergraduate liberal arts education.³

Robust student interest in the study of religion and growth in our course offerings and enrollments have led us to propose this new major. Since 1977 Eastern Michigan University has offered a minor in Religious Studies, housed in the History Section of the Department of History and Philosophy. The minor regularly enrolls a healthy cadre of students (currently 24 students have declared minors), and many of our minors have told us that they wished we offered a major in Religious Studies. Our introductory class, HIST 100: The Comparative Study of Religion, enrolls approximately 700 students annually. Over the past decade, the History faculty has created several new courses in the study of religion, namely HIST 202: Religions in Conflict and Dialogue,

¹ The National Center for Education Statistics lists 110 public and 459 private institutions offering a bachelor's degree in religion or religious studies (not including theology and ministry programs; nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator). The 2012-13 American Academy of Arts & Sciences Survey of Humanities Departments at Four-Year Institutions found that the 502 departments surveyed awarded 5010 bachelor's degrees in 2011-2 (www.humanitiesindicators.org/binaries/pdf/Religion.pdf).

² The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050, Pew Research Center (www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/).

³ The Religious Studies Major in a Post-9/11 World: New Challenges, New Opportunities, A Teagle/American Academy of Religion White Paper (www.aarweb.org/node/134).

HIST 203: Global History of Islam, HIST 204: Introduction to the History of Judaism, HIST 304: Early Judaism, HIST 306: Hinduism, HIST 307: Buddhism, and HIST 334: Early Christianity.

Currently no public university in Southeast Michigan offers a bachelor's degree in religious studies. A major in religious studies would be a point of distinction and competitive advantage for EMU in our region, and should help to attract students to EMU. Our proposed program is broadly comparable to the majors in Religious Studies at Michigan State University, Religion at Central Michigan University, Comparative Religion at Western Michigan University, and Religious Studies at Grand Valley State University; however, our program is more interdisciplinary, as our majors will take one to four courses outside of the History Section. In addition, allowing students to choose their own capstone experience, whether a research project, internship, or other project of the student's design, will give a student-centered conclusion to our major program.

III. Preparedness

We have all resources needed to offer this program. The History Section employs four full time instructors whose teaching and research are primarily in the study of religion:

James Egge, Ph.D., Professor
Rick Rogers, Ph.D., Full Time Lecturer
Philip Schmitz, Ph.D., Professor
Mark Whitters, Ph.D., Full Time Lecturer

Other instructors expected to offer classes in the program are:

Brian Bruya, Ph.D., Professor, Philosophy
Elizabeth Currans, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
John Knight, Ph.D., Associate Professor, History
Dyann Logwood, M.A. (A.B.D.), Full Time Lecturer, Women's and Gender Studies
Kate Mehuron, Ph.D., Professor, Philosophy
Julian M. Murchison, Ph.D., Professor, Anthropology
Richard Nation, Ph.D., Professor, History
Jeremy Proulx, Ph.D., Full Time Lecturer, Philosophy
Ronald Rich, Ph.D., Full Time Lecturer, Anthropology
Ebrahim Soltani, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Political Science

Publications about religion by program faculty include the following books:

At Home in the Hoosier Hills: Agriculture, Politics, and Religion in Southern Indiana, 1810-1870 by Richard Nation (Indiana University Press, 2005).
The Epistle of Second Baruch: Form and Message by Mark Whitters (Sheffield Academic Press, 2003).
The Philosophical Challenge from China, ed. Brian Bruya (MIT Press, 2015).
The Phoenician Diaspora: Epigraphic and Historical Studies by Philip Schmitz (Eisenbrauns, 2012).
Religious Giving and the Invention of Karma in Theravada Buddhism by James Egge (RoutledgeCurzon, 2002).
Theophilus of Antioch: The Life and Thought of a Second-Century Bishop by Rick Rogers (Lexington Books, 2000).
X-Rays, Spirits, and Witches: Understanding Health and Illness in Ethnographic Context by Julian M. Murchison (Rowman & Littlefield, under contract, anticipated publication in 2017).

Halle Library's collection in religious studies is sufficient to support an undergraduate major. The collection of books in the broad area of religious studies (encompassing the Library of Congress

call number ranges BL-BX) contains an estimated 13,400 titles. The majority of these (12,402) are print monographs, 4,917 of which were published since 1990. Over half of the collection focuses on various aspects of Christianity. Books on Islam, over 1,000 titles, constitute a noteworthy subset and the purchase of titles supporting both Buddhism and Judaism (in response to the recently approved Jewish Studies Minor) has been increasing. The overall collection has a respectable currency and balance. This print collection is enhanced by 998 electronic books currently in the catalog. Once again books focusing on Christianity (634) represent the majority of this collection. The library collection of journals is now almost entirely electronic. There are currently 519 e-journal titles falling under the religious studies umbrella in our catalog. Over 200 are open access but the others are all subscription-based. These are available through a variety of full-text databases and online collections: notably JSTOR, Project Muse, Sage, Taylor & Francis, Gale, EBSCOhost, ProQuest and OmniFile. The collection contains core journals and adequate indexing exists not only in the previously mentioned databases but in the online index Religious and Theological Abstracts.

Existing classrooms and offices are well-suited to support this major. No additional facilities or equipment is required.

Major courses offered outside of the History Section are more than sufficient to provide a full and balanced major. We will coordinate with the units offering these courses to insure that they are offered regularly and at times that do not conflict with other courses in the major. We will also encourage other units to develop additional courses that could be included in the major. Two additional courses that we intend to include as restricted elective classes, one in Philosophy and one in Political Science, are currently in development.

Marketing efforts for the major will parallel our efforts on behalf of other History Section programs: publication and distribution of attractive brochures, participation in Explore Eastern and similar events, and promotion and description of the program on our website.

IV. Assessment/Evaluation

Please see curriculum map (Appendix A), which shows the points of assessment of student learning that we have identified. Insofar as possible, we plan to embed assessment of the major within the curriculum by linking it to course assignments. Instructors will be asked to complete simple evaluation instruments asking how well students demonstrated achievement of the objectives linked to each class.

V. Program Costs

The additional cost of this program will be modest. The new core course, RLST 300W, will require use of one classroom assignment and one faculty teaching assignment per year. All other courses already exist and/or serve other programs. The major will not require any additional resources beyond those that serve the existing Religious Studies minor.

We do, however, concur with Halle Library's recommendation to increase the Library's budget for purchases in religious studies. While the cost of print and electronic books and journals increases annually, the annual allocation for purchases in the area of religion has declined from \$5,079 in the 2005/2006 fiscal year to only \$3,000 in the current fiscal year. According to Yankee Book Peddler the current average price of books published in 2015 in the Library of Congress call number ranges BL-BX was \$67.67. To adequately support research in religious studies the Library would ideally see an increase in their acquisitions budget to at least where it was ten years ago. In addition, we agree with the Library's recommendation to add three leading databases in religious

studies, the ATLA Religion Database, Oxford Biblical Studies, and Oxford Islamic Studies Online, at a cost of \$12,536 annually.

VI. Action of the Department/College

1. Department/School (Include the faculty votes signatures from all submitting departments/schools.)

Vote of faculty: For 9 Against 0 Abstentions 0
(Enter the number of votes cast in each category.)

(Faculty vote was 4/8/16.)



Department Head/School Director Signature

9/30/16
Date

I support this proposal. The proposed program can _____ cannot X be implemented without additional College or University resources.



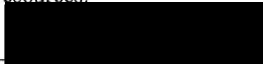
Department Head/School Director Signature

9/30/16
Date

2. College/Graduate School (Include signatures from the deans of all submitting colleges.)

A. College.

I support this proposal. The proposed program can X cannot _____ be implemented within the affected College without additional University resources.


College Dean Signature

10/27/16
Date

B. Graduate School (new graduate programs ONLY)

Graduate Dean Signature

Date

VII. Approval

Associate Vice-President for Academic Programming Signature

Date

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A: Religious Studies Major Curriculum Map

Student Learning Outcomes	100	Restricted Electives: Traditions	Restricted Electives: Methods	300W	Electives	Advisor Interview & Research Capstone (499)	Advisor Interview & Internship Capstone (489L4)
1. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two or more religious traditions.		X				X	
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two or more methods for the study of religion, and will use these methods to investigate and analyze religious phenomena.			X	X		X	
3. Students will write clear, cogent, and persuasive essays about religion.		X	X	X		X	X
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the conventions of the discipline by locating scholarly articles and monographs in religious studies, by citing these works using a standard form of citation, and by writing in the most common genres of religious studies.				X		X	
5. Students will articulate what they have learned through their undergraduate study of religion and state how this study has helped them prepare for their postgraduate careers.						X	X

X = points of assessment



James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Fwd: Religious Studies Major

2 messages

Richard Nation <rnation@emich.edu>
To: James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 8:41 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ryan Molloy <mryan7@emich.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Religious Studies Major
Date: April 17, 2016 at 11:20:11 AM EDT
To: Richard Nation <rnation@emich.edu>
Cc: Brian Spolans <bspolans@emich.edu>

Hi Richard,

See message below. If you need an official memo contact Brian Spolans.

Ryan

Sent from my iPhone.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Spolans <bspolans@emich.edu>
Date: April 17, 2016 at 11:11:24 EDT
To: Ryan Molloy <mryan7@emich.edu>
Subject: Religious Studies Major

The Art Department Personnel Curriculum and Finance Committee discussed and unanimously vote to support the Religious Studies Major proposal.

Brian Spolans
Art Department Personnel Curriculum and Finance Committee Chair

--

Brian Spolans
Associate Professor
Art Department
Eastern Michigan University

Richard Nation <rnation@emich.edu>
To: Ryan Molloy <mryan7@emich.edu>
Cc: James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 8:42 AM

Ryan,

I think that this will do.

Richard

On Apr 17, 2016, at 11:20 AM, Ryan Molloy <mryan7@emich.edu> wrote:

Hi Richard,

See message below. If you need an official memo contact Brian Spolans.

Ryan

Sent from my iPhone.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Spolans <bspolans@emich.edu>

Date: April 17, 2016 at 11:11:24 EDT

To: Ryan Molloy <mryan7@emich.edu>

Subject: Religious Studies Major

The Art Department Personnel Curriculum and Finance Committee discussed and unanimously vote to support the Religious Studies Major proposal.

Brian Spolans

Art Department Personnel Curriculum and Finance Committee Chair

--

Brian Spolans

Associate Professor

Art Department

Eastern Michigan University



James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

(no subject)

Margaret Crouch <mcrouch@emich.edu>
Reply-To: margaret.crouch@gmail.com
To: James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Sun, Sep 11, 2016 at 10:01 PM

Jim

The Philosophy Section supports inclusion of the following courses in the proposed Religious Studies major and revised Religious Studies minor:

- PHIL 215 - Philosophy of Religion (GEKH) 3 hrs
- PHIL 228 - Global Ethics (GEGA) 3 hrs
- PHIL 260 - Existentialism (GEKH) 3 hrs
- PHIL 291 - Introduction to Asian Philosophy (GEGA) 3 hrs

The approval was unanimous.

Sincerely,

Margaret Crouch
Section Chair

--

Dr. M. A. Crouch
Professor of Philosophy
702 C Pray-Harold
Eastern Michigan University

Fall Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12-1:30 and by appointment.

[734-487-0908](tel:734-487-0908) or [734-487-1018](tel:734-487-1018)

Disrespectful, hostile, or aggressive emails shall receive no response.

April 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The Psychology Department supports the inclusion of PSY 225 (Psychology of Religion) in the proposed Religion major and minor.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Carol R. Freedman-Doan.

Carol R. Freedman-Doan, Ph.D.
Department Head, Psychology
341 Science Complex
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 487-1155

cfreedman@emich.edu



James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Fwd: SAC and Religious Studies Major and Minor

1 message

Richard Nation <rnation@emich.edu>
To: James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Fri, Mar 18, 2016 at 10:37 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kristine Ajrouch <kajrouch@emich.edu>
Subject: SAC and Religious Studies Major and Minor
Date: March 11, 2016 at 6:25:21 AM EST
To: Richard Nation <rnation@emich.edu>

Dear Richard,

The Sociology Program has no objections to your proposals, and the Anthropology Program sends the following messages:

After reviewing the newly proposed Major in Religious Studies, the Anthropology Curriculum Committee supports the inclusion of ANTH 338: Anthropology of Religion (among the list of Restricted Elective courses). The ACC wishes to note that ANTH 135 is a pre-requisite for the ANTH 338 course, but many students will have completed ANTH 135 as a GEN ED course. The SAC Department's Anthropology Curriculum Committee (ACC) sees no impact to existing anthropology courses or programs, and therefore has no objections to the course change proposal on this basis. The ACC thanks the Religious Studies program for its collegiality in sharing with it the draft of the proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

After reviewing the proposed changes to the Minor in Religious Studies, the Anthropology Curriculum Committee continues to support the inclusion of ANTH 338: Anthropology of Religion (among the list of Restricted Elective courses). Additionally, the ACC supports removal of ANTH 135: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (among the list of Elective Courses). The ACC wishes to note that ANTH 135 is a pre-requisite for the ANTH 338 course, but many students will have completed ANTH 135 as a GEN ED course. The SAC Department's Anthropology Curriculum Committee (ACC) sees no impact to existing anthropology courses or programs, and therefore has no objections to the course change proposal on this basis. The ACC thanks the Religious Studies program for its collegiality in sharing with it the draft of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Megan Moore, Ph.D.

Anthropology Curriculum Committee Chair
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Eastern Michigan University

Best,
Kristine

Kristine J. Ajrouch, PhD
Professor and Department Head (I), Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
[734-487-0012](tel:734-487-0012) or [734-487-0274](tel:734-487-0274)

President, Society for Study of Human Development
Join us at our web site: <http://www.sshdonline.org>



James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Re: Religious Studies Major proposal/minor revision

Elizabeth Currans <ecurrans@emich.edu>

Tue, Apr 26, 2016 at 4:06 PM

To: James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

Dear Jim,

The Women's and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee enthusiastically supports the revised Religious Studies Minor and proposed Religious Studies Major. We are particularly pleased that two of our courses will be included.

Best,

Beth Currans
Associate Professor
Women's and Gender Studies
Eastern Michigan University



James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

WL Faculty approve inclusion of courses

Rosemary Weston <rweston3@emich.edu>

Tue, Sep 20, 2016 at 4:37 PM

To: James Egge <jegge@emich.edu>

James,

Official Input: WL voted in favor of the inclusion of LITR 251 - The Bible as Literature CLAS 301 (ENG) and Classical Mythology (WL) in the proposed religious studies major and minor revision.

For-----13; Against-----0; Abstentions-----4

R. Weston Ph.D.
Department Head
World Languages