CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

☒ Undergraduate Council
☐ New Course ☒ Course Change
Core Category: Lang/Phil/Culture Effective Fall 2014

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council
☐ New Course ☐ Course Change
Effective Fall 2013

1. Department: RELS College: CLASS

2. Faculty Contact Person: Lynn Mitchell Telephone: 3-3213 Email: lemitchell@uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
   • Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
     RELS / 1301 / Introduction to Religious Studies
   • Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
     RELS / 1301 / INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES
   • SCH: 3.00 Level: FR CIP Code: 38.0201.00 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements

5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If Yes, please complete:
   • Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
     ____ / ____ / ____
   • Course ID: ____ Effective Date (currently active row): ____

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): RELS
   • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   • Can the course be repeated for credit? ☐ Yes ☒ No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C …) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
   RELS / 1301 / Introduction to Religious Studies
   • Course ID: 41372 Effective Date (currently active row): 11/72012

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
   Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304 Description (30 words max.): Thematic and comparative approach to the study of religion as an aspect of human experience from the perspective of various disciplines. Historical and philosophical traditions explored.

10. Dean’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: 10/9/12
    Print/Type Name: __________________________

- Created on 10/8/12 18:34 -
REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Comparative Cultural Studies/RELS
Person Making Request: Lynn Mitchell  Telephone: 3-3213
Email: lemitshell@uh.edu

Dean’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: Click here to enter text.

Course Number and Title: RELS 1301: Introduction to Religious Studies
Please attach in separate documents:
  □ Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description
  □ Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):
*Students will be able to demonstrate a familiarity of the major religions, including major contributions of figures across disciplines.
*Students will be able to analyze primary sources and use these sources as evidence to support their understanding of historical events as well as cultural ideas, values, and beliefs.
*Students will be able to identify, evaluate, and appropriately cite online and print resources.
*Students will be able to communicate effectively their understanding of the ways in which religion shapes society at its deepest levels.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

□ Communication  □ American History
□ Mathematics  □ Government/POLITICAL

Science

□ Language, Philosophy, & Culture  □ Social & Behavioral Science
□ Creative Arts  □ Component Area Option
□ Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

X Critical Thinking  □ Teamwork
X Communication Skills  □ Social Responsibility

v.5/10/12
Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

Critical Thinking:

Students will arrange visits with at least 7 worshipping religious communities of various traditions (not of their own).
For each visit, student will submit a 3+ page reflection on the experience which
a. records your observations in detail,
b. notes explanations from participants about how they understand their religious rituals,
c. includes insights gleaned from lectures
d. includes background information from the text
e. has attached a relevant news article with a publication date within the semester (relevant to that particular religious tradition or faith community).

Communication Skills:
In the same seven reports as above, student will demonstrate ability to communicate effectively through written form.

Empirical & Quantitative Skills:
Click here to enter text.

Teamwork:
Click here to enter text.

Social Responsibility:
In the same seven reports as above, student will evaluate and explain issues of social responsibility as it relates to religion.

Personal Responsibility:
In the same seven reports as above, student will evaluate and explain issues of personal responsibility as it relates to religion.

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course?  □ X Yes  □ No
If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:
The writing requirement of comparing/contrasting different religions and synthesizing with information presented in texts and lectures and relating with current media events will be constant across sections.
Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: __________________________ Rey Trevino for Lynn Mitchell
RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson  
Telephone (713) 594-1250 (cell)  
Office: 208 A.D. Bruce Religion Center  
Telephone: 205 482-5389

Teaching Assistant: John Sherer  
Email: jshererw4@gmail.com  
Office Hours: By appointment only (don’t be shy!)

Course Description:
An introduction to the study of religion, including the historical roots of the discipline and the contributions of major figures in the fields of sociology, psychology, anthropology, and phenomenology, as well as a survey of the traditions and beliefs of a number of world religions. Students will be encouraged to deepen their understandings of their own and others’ religious beliefs, and to appreciate more fully the ways in which religion shapes society at its deepest levels.

Required Texts:
ISBN: 978-0-19-975951-4

Course Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance &amp; Participation</th>
<th>15 pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>25 pts (x2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Community Visits &amp; Reflection Papers</td>
<td>5 points each (x7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Extra Credit on Final Average</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:

- A = 94+  
- A- = 90-93  
- B+ = 87-89  
- B = 84-86  
- B- = 80-83  
- C+ = 75-79  
- C = 70-74  
- D = 60-64  
- F = below 60

Attendance & Participation: Is required. You will be excused two class lectures during the semester, (for illness, emergencies, or any reason) after which you will lose points proportionately on this part of your grade. No additional excused absences will be granted. Signing the roll as it is passed around during class is your responsibility. You may not sign in at the end of class. If you cannot attend your class section on a given day, you may attend one of the other sections of the course and sign in there, noting your enrolled section on the roll.

(I am trying to avoid forcing you to buy clickers to register attendance at the beginning and end of class, so I use a sign-in sheet. It is much more work for me to collate the roll sheets. If I note students signing in and then leaving early, or otherwise trying to get credit for attendance when they are not in class, we will revert to the clicker system).

Tests: Will be 60% objective (fill-in-the-blank, T/F, multiple choice, etc.) and 40% essay questions taken from those posted on blackboard. They will cover both lectures and assigned reading. Will be ‘open notes’ - (You may use handwritten notes from lectures and/or readings, no typed pages or photocopies).

Religious Community Visits & Reflection Papers:
1. Visit 7 worshipping religious communities of various traditions (not your own).
2. For each visit submit a 3+ page reflection on the experience which
   a. records your observations in detail,
   b. notes explanations from participants about how they understand their religious rituals,
   c. includes insights gleaned from lectures
   d. includes background information from the text
   e. has attached a relevant news article with a publication date within the semester (relevant to that particular religious tradition or faith community).

Possible Extra Credit: (points to be added to final average)
1. Complete one or two additional Religious Community Visit(s) and Reflection Paper(s) (Only available if your core requirement papers are submitted on time).
2. Additional opportunities for extra credit will be announced during the semester.

Required Reading: Readings should be completed before class on the Tuesday of the week assigned.
RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2012

**Week 1: August 28th & 30th**
Course outline, defining religion, from theology to religious studies – Jean Bodin, Edward Herbert of Cherbury, Bernard Fontenelle, Giambattista Vico, David Hume

**Week 2: September 4th & 6th**
Sociology: August Comte, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber; Peter Berger, Rodney Stark

**Week 3: September 11th & 13th**
Psychology: William James, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung
**Thursday – Reflection paper #1 due**

**Week 4: September 18th & 20th**
Anthropology: Edward Burnett Tylor, James Frazer, Bronislaw Malinowski, A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, Ferdinand de Saussure, Claude Levi-Strauss
**WWT: Chapter 1 * Introduction**

**Week 5: September 25th & 27th**
Phenomenology: Immanuel Kant, Rudolph Otto, Mircea Eliade
**WWT: Chapter 2 * Indigenous Religions**
**Thursday – Reflection papers #2 & #3 due**

**Week 6: October 2nd & 4th**
**Tuesday: Test 1 – Objective/Part 1 – Bring a blue scantron filled out with your name and PS #.**
**Thursday – Test 1 – Essays/Part 2**

**Week 7: October 9th & 11th**
**WWT: Chapter 3 * The Many Stories of Judaism: Sacred and Secular**

**Week 8: October 16th & 18th**
**WWT: Chapter 4 * Christian Diversity and the Road to Modernity**
**Thursday – Reflection papers #4 & #5 due**

**Week 9: October 23rd & 25th**
**WWT: Chapter 5 * Islam: The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience**

**Week 10: October 30th & November 1st**
**WWT: Chapter 6 * Hinduism: Myriad Paths to Salvation**

**Week 11: November 6th & 8th**
**WWT: Chapter 7 * Buddhism: Ways to Nirvana**
**Thursday – Reflection papers #6 & #7 due**

**Week 12: November 13th & 15th**
**WWT: Chapter 8 * East Asian Religions: Traditions of Human Cultivation and Natural Harmony**

**Week 13: November 20th**
**WWT: Chapter 9 * Globalization: From New to New Age Religions**

**Week 14: November 27th & 29th**
**Tuesday – Extra Credit Reflection Papers due**
Complete lecture material, test reviews

**Week 15: December 4th & 6th**
**Tuesday: Test 2 – Essays**
**Thursday – Test 2 – Objective – Bring a blue scantron filled out with your name and PS #.**
RELS 1301 – Introduction to Religious Studies – Fall 2012

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY VISITS - MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE POSSIBILITIES BELOW. Please call before you go for information about appropriate attire, updated times of worship that are open to visitors, etc.

**JEWISH:**

**Orthodox:** United Orthodox Synagogue of Houston
9001 Greenwillow, Houston, TX 77096  713 723 3850  http://www.uosh.org
(You must send them a copy of your TDL and UH ID before you go)

**Conservative:** Congregation Beth Yeshurun
4525 Beechnut, Houston, TX 77096  713 666 1881  www.bethyeshurun.org
Call or check web-site for worship times

**Reform:** Congregation Beth Israel
5600 North Braeswood, Houston, TX
Sabbath Services in Chapel and Sanctuary: Fridays 6:30 p.m.

**CHRISTIAN**

**Roman Catholic:** CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART
1111 ST. JOSEPH PKWY @ SAN JACINTO, Houston, TX 77002
Weekend Mass: English: Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm; Sunday 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm;
Spanish: Sunday 7:30 pm
Weekday Mass - 7:00 am, 12:10 pm Monday – Friday

**Orthodox:** Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
3511 Yoakum Boulevard, Houston, TX 77006
Worship Schedule: Sunday Orthros (Morning Prayers) 8:00 AM
Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

**Pentecostal:** Champions Community Church
13111 Burmel N. Houston Rd - Houston, TX – 77066
Sundays: 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m., Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Worship & Bible Study

**Protestant:** Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
11612 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024
Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Blended Worship; 9:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

**Society of Friends:** Live Oak Friends Meeting,
1318 West 26th Street in Houston, Texas
Sundays: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (For early risers; Skyspace often open); 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Childcare provided)
Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: Adult Discussion Group with Focus on Quakerism (tea and coffee served; attenders are welcome to bring brown bag dinner or snacks) 8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.: Meeting for Worship

**MUSLIM**

**Ahmadiyya:** Masjid Baitus Samee
1333 Spears Rd, Houston, TX 77067
+1 (281) 875-3400
mnaaem5518@aol.com

**Shia:** Islamic Education Center, 2313 S. Voss Road, Houston, TX-77057;
Friday Prayer at Zohr time - call or check web-site for exact time; www.iec-houston.org  713 787 5000

**HINDU:** BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
1150 Brand Lane, Stafford, TX 77477, (281) 765-2277
houston.baps.org

**BUDDHIST:** Dawn Mountain Tibetan Temple
2240 Bissonnet Street, Houston  713 630 0354
www.dawnmountain.org