Rowan University

PROCESS B General Education Curriculum Proposal

SCC#05-06- 621

Library Resource Form Required for New Courses

Submission Deadlines: Fall - October 11, 2005 Spring - February 14, 2006

TITLE Introduction to Christianity

Sponsor(s) David Clowney e-mail: clowney@rowan.edu

e-mail:

e-mail:

DEPARTMENT

College

*If **LAS**-check:* ✓ *History/Humanities* ___ *Social/Behavioral Sciences*

___ *Math/Science*

✓ ***UNDERGRADUATE*** ___ ***GRADUATE***

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST JUL 11 2006 ROWAN UNIVERSITY

___ Minor changes to existing General Education course

Request new or existing course receive the following description:

___ Writing Intensive ___ Literature

✓ Multicultural-Global ___ Lab Science

___ Changes to General Education requirements of a degree or program

New or Existing course to be placed in the General Education Bank:

___ Fine/Performing Arts ___ LAS: Humanities

___ LAS: Social Behavior ___ LAS: Math/Science

___ Communication Studies

Signatures Required: representing approval before submission to Office of the Senate

Department Chair: David Clowney Date: 2/14/06

Department CURRICULUM Chair: David Clowney Date: 2/14/06

Academic DEAN: [illegible] Date: 2-14-06

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: Open Hearing Date:

Sent 4/10/06 Approved

Not Approved NA

Signature: College Curriculum Chair NA

Signature: SENATE CURRICULUM CHAIR [illegible]

Date: 5/9/06

Comments:

Signature: Executive Vice President/Provost: [illegible]

* This approval is independent of approval of major

Date: 6/21/06

Approved: ✓

Not Approved:

Signature: REGISTRAR [illegible]

Date: 6/28/06

Course Description Received & Approved

Hegis Taxonomy & Course # REL 10.320

Notification Forward:

___ SCC CHAIR ___ Academic Dean

___ IR ___ Department Chair

___ CAP ___ VP/Student Affairs

___ Registrar ___ Other-

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ROWAN UNIVERSITY
Glassboro, New Jersey

Department of Philosophy and Religion

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY: REL10 320

I. Details

a. Course Title: Introduction to Christianity
b. REL 10 320
c. Sponsors: Dianne Ashton
d. Credits: 3
e. Course Level: 300 (Junior)
f. Prerequisites: at least one course in the Humanities (HHL designation), Comp I and II
g. Implementation:
    1. Time of implementation: Spring Semester, 2009
    2. Scale of implementation: One section every two years, depending on demand.

II. Curricular Effect

a. Offerings: This course will represent an extension of the curriculum and will not replace any other course.
b. Adequacy: No additional staff or resources will be required for implementation of this course. Regarding space, one classroom with seating for 30 students will be needed for one semester every two years.
c. Recommended Library Resources: See attached form.
d. Short-term evaluations: N/A

III. Rationale

As our Department prepares to implement a major in Philosophy and Religion we are developing courses to cover areas of study required for systematic work. The Christian religion is a foundation of Anglo-European culture and today is the largest faith community in the world, growing most rapidly at present in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is, thus, appropriate that a course on Christianity be included in the list of courses from which students will select their work in our major.

The course will also be available to students who do not major in Philosophy and Religion, can be useful to students of history, literature, and the social sciences.

This course can also enhance students' General Education experience. Religion Studies, as the discipline for this course, is inherently interdisciplinary, drawing upon historical criticism, linguistic analysis, and a range of social science methodologies. Christianity, as a world religion, has its roots in the middle east, permeates diverse cultures, has shaped the west, and has its greatest current growth and vitality outside the Western world. This course will highlight these dimensions of Christianity, and will thus be multicultural in nature.

IV. Essence of the Course

a. Objectives of the course in relation to student outcomes: A student who has completed Introduction to Christianity will have minimally acquired the following:
   1. A basic understanding of the origin and development of Christianity from Jesus to the present day.
   2. A coherent grasp of the Christian "Worldview," the belief system that most Christians hold in common.

   3. The major issues and concerns of contemporary Christians communities, for example, the encounter with secularism and with other world religions.
   4. An awareness of the similarities and differences among the major branches of the Christian faith: Roman Catholicism; Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.
   5. An ability to articulate the issues at work in the conservative-liberal hiatus in most modern Christian churches.
   6. A comprehension of how Christianity has both shaped and been shaped by forces of Anglo-European culture and history.
   7. A comprehension of the role of the shape of the modern Christian movement outside the west, and its kinship with and differences from western Christianity.

b. Topical Outline/Content
   1. Christian History
      (a) Jesus and the New Testament Era: Before Jesus; Jesus' life and teachings; Paul and as the Synoptic communities; Johannine Christianity; Early Christian and the Roman Empire.
      (b) The Patristic Era(100-600 CE): Apolegetics; Doctrinal development; Constantine establishment; Monasticism; Augustine.
      (c) Medieval Christianity(600-1300 CE): The Eastern tradition and schism with the West; the Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire; Medieval piety; Gregory the Great; Thomas Acquinas.
      (d) Reformation(1300-1700 CE): Ecclesia Semper Reformanda; Martin Luther; The Protestant Reformation; The Council of Trent; Eastern Developments; The Church as missionary.
      (e) Modernity(1700-Present): The Enlightenment; Political developments; Science and the Industrial Revolution; The modern missionary movement; Marxism; Colonialism; Vatican II; The World Council of Churches; Women in the churches.
      (f) World Christianity: The growth of Christianity outside the West; Indigenous Christian movements; Dialogue with other religions
   2. The Christian "Worldview"
      (a) Incarnation: Jesus Christ; The Trinity; The Church; Scripture; the sacraments.
      (b) Creation: The one God; the spiritual world; human beings; nature; eschatology.
      (c) Sin and Grace: evil; Original Sin; salvation; divine life; the theological virtues.
   3. Contemporary Christianity
      (a) New Theologies: Liberalism; Fundamentalism; Neo-orthodoxy; Liberation Theology.

(b) Spirituality: Eastern Orthodoxy; Simplicity; world religions; ecological accents.
(c) Faith and Authority: science and technology; secularism; resurgent fundamentalism; Biblical authority; The Holocaust.
(d) Ethical Issues: war and peace; social and economic justice; ecological concerns; feminist issues, medical ethics; world religions.

b. Evaluation of students and grading procedures: Student performance will be assessed in various ways: written examinations; papers; homework assignments; oral reports; class presentations; class participation; individual and group projects; other devices as well. The particular mix of devices evaluating student performance will be at the discretion of the instructor.

c. Course Evaluation: This course will be reevaluated by the Philosophy and Religion Department at least every other year(beginning with the 1st year of its implementation). The review will take into account student evaluations of the course, reactions to the course from the various departments affected and the view of the instructor responsible for teaching the course. The purpose of this review will be to ensure that the Introduction to Christianity course continues to meet the objectives of the Philosophy and Religion Major, General Education, the goals of the University, as well as the stated objectives for the course itself.

d. Letters of consultation:

Letters of consultation included with major proposal

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

REL10 320 .....3 s.h.
Introduction to Christianity COMP 01.111
(Prerequisites: one course in the humanities (HHL designation), COM01 111, COM01 112) COMP 01.112

This course will introduce students to the history, texts, worldview, and contemporary issues of the Christian religious tradition. Spanning two thousand years, the Christian tradition has undergone many changes as it has evolved in the world. Students will study basic texts and historical events while also reflecting on contemporary issues.

Rowan University
Curriculum Proposal- LIBRARY RESOURCE FORM

SCC#05-06-

This form ***MUST BE COMPLETED FOR NEW COURSE or PROGRAM PROPOSALS, and EXTENSIVE CHANGES TO A COURSE or PROGRAM.***

The purpose of this form is to provide a channel of communication between the Campbell Librarians and faculty when submitting new course or program proposals, or making extensive changes to existing courses or programs. The information will be used to assess the resources available in the library, and to identify resources the library should acquire to support the new courses/programs, or extensive changes to same. The information will also provide the rationale for institutional support for library acquisitions. This form should be completed in a coordinated effort between the course sponsor(s) and the academic department liaison librarian.

Note: Sponsor(s) complete parts A & B
If assistance is required to complete, please notify the librarian liaison.
Forward this form to the librarian who will complete parts C, D & E

When form is completed, attach to the original curriculum proposal before submitting to the Senate office.

A. ***College:*** Liberal Arts & Sciences **Department:** Philosophy and Religion

Proposed by: James H. Grace Date: Feb 16, 2006

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Christianity

Anticipated Date for Course/Program Offering: Spring Semester 2009

B. ***List specific resources that should be acquired to support this course.***

See Attached

C. ***Describe the resources available in the library to support this course/program, including reference, monographic, electronic databases, audio-visual materials, etc. A summary statement is sufficient.***

See Attached

D. ***List key periodicals available in the library to support this course/program.***

See Attached

E. ***Librarian comments & recommendations:***

See Attached

LIBRARIAN LIAISON: Cynthia Mullens Signature: Cynthia Mullens

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B. Resources are sufficient to support this course, and additional resources are not required to support this course.

C. Library Resources to Support course

1. Reference Books
   a. Encyclopedia of religion. Ref. BL31.E46 1987, v.1-16
   b. Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church Ref. BR95.08 1997

2. Searching the online catalog yields a large number of books pertaining to subject.

3. Electronic/Paper databases
   a. Philosopher's Index, Paper
   b. Academic Search Premier, Electronic
   c. Humanities, FT, Electronic
   d. Humanities and Social Science Retro, Electronic
   e. Project Muse, Electronic
   f. J-Stor, Electronic
   g. Religious & Theological Abstracts, Paper

D. List key periodicals that support this course.
   a. Christianity Today, electronic & microfiche
   b. Church History, electronic & paper
   c. Journal of Religion, electronic & paper
   d. Religion and American culture, electronic & paper
   f. Review of Religious research, electronic & paper
   g. Studies in world Christianity, electronic

E. No recommendations