

ROWAN UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL TITLE: New Course: World Religions II

CHECK APPROPRIATE: UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATE 3 SEMESTER HOURS

SPONSOR(S): D Ashfm, J Grace

DEPARTMENT/TELEPHONE #

CHECK ONE: COURSE MINOR PROGRAM CONCENTRATION SPECIALIZATION
 ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM MAJOR PROGRAM

<p>Step #1 (Department)</p> <p><u>10/24/97</u> Approved (Date) Not Approved (Date)</p> <p><u>David Wilkerson</u> Dept. Curriculum Chr.</p> <p><u>10/24/97</u> Reviewed (Date) <u>David Wilkerson</u> Dept. Chr.</p>	<p>Step #2 (Receipt)</p> <p>SCC# <u>97-98-235</u></p> <p><u>2-5-98</u> Date Received Senate</p> <p>_____ Senate Curriculum Chr.</p>	<p>Step #3 (School)</p> <p>Reviewed Date: <u>1/27/98</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend to Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend NOT to Approve</p> <p>Forward for Open Hearing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WITHOUT Reservations <input type="checkbox"/> WITH Reservations</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p><u>Joy Wilkenburg</u> School Committee Chr.</p>
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Step #4 (Academic Dean): Recommended NOT Recommended Conditionally Recommended (See Comments)

Comments:

Dean Signature/Date _____

Step #5 (Senate Curriculum Committee): Open Hearing Date: _____ Approved by Curriculum Committee Date _____

Returned to Sponsor(s) for the following reason:

6 (Senate) Date announced/voted on at Senate _____ If voted on: Approved NOT Approved

Date forwarded to Executive Vice President/Provost _____

Senate Curriculum Committee chair Signature/Date: _____

PROPOSAL FOR THE COURSE "WORLD RELIGIONS II"

I. Details

- A. Course title: World Religions II
- B. Sponsors: Dianne Ashton, Philosophy/Religion
James H. Grace, Philosophy/Religion
- C. Credit Hours: 3
- D. Course Level: 200
- E. Curricular Effect: This course will be required of all students majoring in Religion and Philosophy with an emphasis in Religion Studies. It will also fulfill General Education requirements for all other students at Rowan University. In addition, it is a Multicultural/Global course.
- F. Prerequisites: none.
- G. Implementation:
 - 1. Time: Fall semester, 1998.
 - 2. Scale: At least two sections of this course will be offered every semester, depending on student demand.
- H. Adequacy of:
 - 1. Staffing: The Philosophy/Religion Department presently has two members who are qualified to teach this course. It is expected that other current or new members will teach this course in the future.
 - 2. Library Facilities and Holdings: The Philosophy/Religion Department has over the past ten years ordered many books and periodicals that relate to this course. With these, and future additions, the Library's collection will continue to suffice for the purpose of a course on this topic.
 - 3. Space Needs: Two or more classrooms with blackboards and seating for thirty will be needed every semester.

II. Rationale

1. World Religions II focuses upon religions of Near and Middle Eastern origin, primarily those that have influenced the development of Euro-Anglo civilization and, by extension, American society. Students who take this course will thus gain an in-depth knowledge of the religious history, beliefs, rituals, and practices that have directly or indirectly shaped the values and ideology of their own world. This in itself, given the well-documented ignorance of most Americans about religion, would justify such a course offering.

2. From its inception the academic study of religion has been interdisciplinary in its methodology, reflecting the truism that knowing is a wholistic activity, involving the knower and many modes of inquiry. Students who take this course will thus have the opportunity to integrate what they have previously learned about the humanities, the social sciences, and the hard sciences into their study of religion.

3. It has been our experience that Rowan undergraduates bring to our courses many questions about religion. World Religions II will help them to know and reflect upon a variety of "answers" to their questions as well as new kinds of questions that emerge from studying diverse religious traditions.

III. Essence of the Course

A. Course Objectives: A student who successfully completes this course will be able to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Explain the major characteristics of the culture of the Ancient Near East.
2. Explain how historical and cultural factors both influence and are influenced by religious traditions and values.
3. Identify both the similarities and differences that exist among the major living religions of Middle Eastern origin (i.e., Judaism, Christianity, and Islam).
4. Discuss the impact of science and technology on the religions studied in this course.
5. Present an informed and reflective account of the future prospects of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

B. Topical Outline/Content

- A. Zoroastrianism's Ethical Dualism
 1. Iranian Religion Before Zoroaster
 2. The Life and Teachings of Zoroaster
 3. Religion in the Later Avesta
 4. Zoroastrians Today
- B. Biblical Religion: Hebrew Origins to the Exile
 1. The Pre-Mosaic Hebrews
 2. Moses and the Covenant with YHWH
 3. YHWH and the Baalim
 4. Prophetic Protest and Reform
 5. The Babylonian Exile
- C. The Religious Development of Judaism
 1. The Restoration Period
 2. New Trends in the Greek & Maccabean Periods
 3. The Rabbis and the Romans
 4. The Great Dispersion
 5. The Creation of The Talmud
 6. Judaism in the Middle Ages
 7. Jews, Israel, and the Modern World
- D. The Words and Works of Jesus in Apostolic Perspective
 1. 1st Century Palestian Judaism
 2. The Life and Teachings of Jesus
 3. The Apostolic Age
 4. The Early Churches (50-150 C.E.)

- E. The Development of Christianity
 - 1. The Ancient Catholic Church(150-1054 C.E.)
 - 2. Eastern Orthodox Churches
 - 3. Catholicism in the Middle Ages
 - 4. Protestant and Catholic Reformations
 - 5. Crosscurrents of the 17th & 18th Centuries
 - 6. Christianity in the Modern World
- F. Islam: Beginnings
 - 1. Arabia Before Muhammed
 - 2. Muhammed and The Qur'an
 - 3. Islamic Faith and Practice
 - 4. The Spread of Islam
 - 5. Islamic Theology and Culture
- G. The Shi'ah Alternative and Regional Developments
 - 1. The Party of Ali
 - 2. Islam, Culture, and Government
 - 3. Issues in the Modern Period
 - 4. Regional Developments

C. Evaluation and Grading: At the discretion of the instructor students may be evaluated on the basis of examinations, journals, class participation, research projects, and other written assignments.

D. Course Evaluations: SIRs and peer review as well as students' qualitative assessments presented at the end of the course regarding what they liked most or least about 1)the course, 2)the instructor, 3)the materials used, e.g., texts, tests, audio-visuals, etc. Students will also be asked to provide suggestions to improve the course.

E. Consultations: The following persons have been consulted informally about the content and structure of this course: Dr. Murray Golden, Iowa State University; Professor Monica Visser, Fordham University; Dr. Perry Van Dyke, Occidental College.

F. Additional Information: Selected Bibliography

- Boyce, Mary A. A History of Zoroastrianism.
- Hemming, H., tr. Avesta: Hymns of Zarathustra.
- Zaehner, R.C. The Dawn and Twilight of Zoroastrianism.
- Albright, W.F. Archeology of Palestine.
- Bauer, Yehuda. History of the Holocaust.
- Buber, Martin. Prophetic Faith.
- Christ and Plaskow. Womanspirit Rising.
- Ginsberg, L. Legends of the Jews.
- Montefiore & Loewe. A Rabbinic Anthology.
- Neusner, Jacob. The Way of Torah.
- Pritchard, J.B. The Ancient Near East.
- Scholem, G.G. Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism.

Barrett, C.K. The New Testament Background.
Branscomb, H. The Teachings of Jesus.
Enslin, M.S. Christian Beginnings.
Knox, John. Chapters in a Life of Paul.
Koester, Helmut. Introduction to the New Testament.
Augustine, A. City of God.
Bainton, R. Horizon History of Christianity.
Bultmann, R. Primitive Christianity.
Ferm, D.W. Contemporary American Theologies.
Gilson, E. History of Christian Philosophy in Middle Ages.
Reuther, R.R. Religion and Sexism.
Walker, W. A History of the Christian Church.
Ali, Muhammad. The Religion of Islam.
Arnold & Guillaume. The Legacy of Islam.
Cragg, Kenneth. The Mind of the Qur'an.
Ibn Ishaq, Muhammad. The Life of Muhammad.
Nicholson, R.A. A Literary History of the Arabs.
Pickthall, M. The Meaning of the Glorious Koran.
Smith, W.C. Islam in Modern History.
Watt, W.M. Free Will & Determinism in Early Islam.

G. Catalog Description

200 Level

No Prerequisites

WORLD RELIGIONS II 3 s.h.

This course will focus primarily upon the major faiths that originated in the Ancient Near East: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Some attention will also be given to Zoroastrianism.