

New/Revised Course Proposal Form

Instructions:

- Prepare your proposal according to the following outline.
- Attach a proposed syllabus and/or course guidelines that include a list of measurable student learning outcomes and how they will be assessed.
- Have your proposal reviewed by the appropriate department and school/college committee.
- Submit the signed proposal to the Office of Academic Affairs. All forms must be completed in full with appropriate signatures. You will be contacted by the Curriculum Committee Coordinator with a date and time to present the proposal.

Form information:

1. Department: Religious Studies
2. Program: B.A. in Religious Studies
3. Course Information: New Revised

<u>RELG</u>	<u>/ 2090 /</u>	<u>Introduction to Religions of Small Scale Societies</u>
Prefix	Number	Title
<u>3</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>None</u>
Credit Hours		Prerequisites
4. Catalog Description for the catalog: (This description should briefly describe the basic content of the course as it will be offered.)

This course will review the wide variety of belief systems found in traditional tribal societies. Throughout most of human history, people have lived in small scale societies which have followed religious practices commonly integrated into their ecosystems. Horticulturalists, pastoralists and hunter gatherers have been commonly dependent upon their relations with other animals and the food sources available in the ecological niche in which they live. The belief systems of these peoples have provided fertile ground for the development of the major religions found in the world today.
5. May students repeat this course for credit? Yes No
If there are limits, please explain? _____
6. What is the Rationale for the new/revised course?

It is part of the core requirements of the new major and meant to compliment the other courses, Introduction to Eastern Religions and Introduction to Western Religions.
7. Should this new course be considered for General Education coding? Yes No

If yes, attach the Application for General Education Coding Form.

8. Staffing requirements:

- a. Qualifications necessary for instructor: Ph.D.
- b. What staffing changes, if any, will be necessary to offer this additional course?

None

9. When will this course be initiated? Spring 2010 How often will it be taught?
Biannually What campus(es) are likely to offer this course? Webster
Groves

10. Does this course affect degree requirements in your, or any other department/program's major, emphasis, minor or certificate? Yes No
If yes, please attach corrected catalog copy for approval, with the Deans of that School/College's approval.

11. List any existing University course(s), which are similar in title and/or subject matter and explain how this course differs. None

12. Are University resources adequate to support this course? (Library holdings, space, specialized, equipment, etc.) Yes No
If not, what additions are necessary? _____

13. Will any course be dropped as a result of this new course? Yes No
If so, please list what course(s).

Endorsements and Approvals:

Petitioner

Department/Program Chairperson

Dean of College/School

Chair/Curriculum Committee

Date

Date

Date

Date

3/3/09

General Education Course Coding Form

INSTRUCTIONS

- Your responses must be typed and all sections completed. Do not submit this application unless your course meets all of the approval criteria (1000 and 2000 courses only, single code only, no prerequisites, etc.). Contact the Curriculum Committee Coordinator if you have any questions.
- Attach a syllabus that includes a list of the following:
 - Measurable student learning outcomes
 - Note: The GenEd learning outcomes should be stated separately from the course learning outcomes on the course syllabus
 - Outcome Assessment (including descriptions of reading and writing activities, projects, presentations, testing, etc.)
 - Course requirements (such as attendance, assignments, etc.)
- Have your proposal reviewed by the appropriate department and school/college committee.
- Submit your proposal to the Office of Academic Affairs. You will be contacted by the Curriculum Committee Coordinator with a date and time to present the proposal.

FORM INFORMATION

Select one: New Course Revised Course

1. Department: Religious Studies
2. Program: B.A. in Religious Studies
3. Course Information: RELG / 2090 / Introduction to Religions of Small Scale Societies
(1000 & 2000 only) Prefix Number Title

If the course is a **topics** or **issues course**, the last digit in the number should designate its code according to the following guidelines:

A Topics or Issues course coded 2300 designates no code.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
2301	Critical Thinking	2304	Humanities	2307	Arts Appreciation
2302	Communications	2305	Values	2308	Scientific Understanding
2303	Historical Consciousness	2306	Cultural Understanding	2309	Mathematics

Note: All sections under a course number that received a general education code have the same code.

4. General Education Code requested. Humanities (List only one code)
5. Does this course have a prerequisite? Yes No
(General Education Courses should not have prerequisites.)

6. Indicate how each of the General Education Learning Outcome criteria for your code (page 3 and 4) are reflected in the learning outcomes of the course.

Student learns to utilize original works or texts instead of secondary interpretations
Student learns about multiple perspectives on themes of the human condition

7. Student Achievement of Gen. Ed. Learning Outcomes are Assessed Within:
(Check all that apply)

Exams Papers Portfolios Class Exercises
 Other _____

8. Endorsements & Approvals:

Please have the Chair of the Department/Committee, Dean of each School/College and other programs that may be affected by this proposal, review prior to submission to the Office of Academic Affairs.

Petitioner

Date

Chair of the Department/Committee

Date 3/15/09

Dean of College/School

Date

Chair of the Curriculum Committee

Date

RELG 2090
Introduction to Religions
In Small Scale Societies
Spring 2010

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Course Description

Throughout most of human history, people have lived in small scale societies which have followed religious practices commonly integrated into their ecosystems. Horticulturalists, pastoralists and hunter gatherers have been completely dependent upon their relations with other animals and the food sources available in the ecological niche in which they live. The belief systems of these people have provided fertile ground for the development of the major religions found in world today. This course will review the historical development of religion in such societies and some religions practices of contemporary tribal societies.

General Education Learning Outcomes

- Student learns to utilize original works or texts instead of secondary interpretations
- Student learns about multiple perspectives on themes of the human condition

Learning Outcomes

- Familiarity with belief systems of small scale societies
- Understanding of the diversity of belief systems in eco-cultures
- Insight into the functional nature of belief
- Ability to analyze and describe the origins of specific beliefs
- Making an intellectual argument based upon support data
- Conducting secondary research

Texts

A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion by Michael Lambek
Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn by Karen M. Brown
Various readings handed out in class.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance

Students are expected to attend class. Since this class meets only once per week, missing one class has major impact on the course. Students are entitled to one unexcused absence. Subsequent absences will impact the final grade. Anyone who arrives more than 15 minutes late will be considered absent for that class. **More than two absences will result in a failing grade. Sorry, no exceptions.**

2. Class Participation

We are equal partners in teaching this class. Everyone is expected to participate. Each class will provide ample opportunity for student to student interaction. Much of this is based upon the readings. If you do not intend to read the assignments each week, **YOU SHOULD NOT BE IN THIS CLASS!** Each student will be asked to prepare discussion questions for one specific reading, starting with the second week of class.

3. Quizzes

There are six simple quizzes in this course (weeks 2-7). These quizzes are based upon the reading assignments **for that class**. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. Students who come late for that class will not be able to take the quiz. Quizzes consist of ten simple questions; any student who does the readings should be able to answer all the questions.

4. Book Review

Students are expected to complete a book review of the Brown book. Information on this report will be provided at a later date. This is a book review and not a book report.

5. Paper

You are expected to write a five to seven page paper (typed, double spaced only, 10 or 12 point type) on a belief or ritual found in a tribal society. This should include a brief history of that society, an analysis of specific religious practices found in that society and the origin of those practices. The topic **MUST** be approved by me. In addition, each student will be expected to do an oral presentation of the information contained in the paper.

6. Reading Discussion

There are 24 individual readings assigned for this class from the second through the seventh weeks. Each student will take one reading and describe that reading for the class on the day that reading is due. That student will also distribute five discussion questions to the class based upon that reading. The instructor will moderate the discussion.

Grading

Course grades will be determined with the following emphasis:

Quizzes/Assignments	20%
Paper	30%
Book Review	30%
Final Report	5%
Reading Report	5%
Participation	10%

N.B. All written work is to be typed. No handwritten assignment will be accepted. All written work must be completed according to the norms of academic writing. Absolutely no email submissions.

Schedule

1	Introduction: The meanings of belief
2	The structure of tribal society
3	Myths
4	Fertility
5	Tribal beliefs in Africa
6	Tribal beliefs in North America
7	Tribal beliefs in Asia
8	Final reports based on papers

N.B. The reading assignments are due on the date for which they are listed. The "H" and "A" refer to the authors of our texts: (H) for Good to Eat and (A) for Everyone Eats. The numbers are chapter numbers. The symbol (q) means there is a quiz on that day. The symbol (m) refers to a class meal.

Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, all students are expected to be in class and prepared to begin on time. **All pagers, wireless phones, or other electronic devices must be turned off, when you enter the classroom.** Disruption of class, whether by latecomers, noisy devices, or inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.