

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

August 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Mark Largent, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Dr. John Gaboury, Associate Provost for Academic Services,
Enrollment Management, and Academic Initiatives

RE: Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Minor in Religion in the
Americas
For Transmittal to the University Committee on Undergraduate
Education

The request referenced above is being sent to the University Committee on Undergraduate Education in accordance with the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, 4.4.

Response Requested:

Please ask the University Committee on Undergraduate Education to consider the request referenced above. Please mail the related materials referenced under the heading Attachments at the end of this memorandum to the committee members.

After receiving UCUE's consultative response, the Provost will make a determination to discontinue/not discontinue this program. Then, the program's curriculum and degree requirements referenced above will be included on the agenda for the October 8, 2020 meeting of Subcommittee C, University Committee on Curriculum (UCC). Requests that are approved by Subcommittee C on October 8 will be before the Full Committee, UCC, for action on October 29, 2020. Requests that are approved by the Full Committee on October 29 will be included in the November 17, 2020 Report of the UCC to the Faculty Senate.

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the attached materials, please contact Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator, at 5-8420.

Thank you.

Attachments:

1. Entry for the October 8, 2020 meeting of Subcommittee C.
2. Request for Discontinuation of an Academic Program form dated May 11, 2020 Minor in Religion in the Americas and attachments.
3. Draft, of the work copy for the Academic Programs section of the University catalog.
4. Student Enrollments by Program; Student Awards by Programs (for the request referenced above).

S:/share/ucuerelammnun



University Curriculum and Catalog

Hannah Admin. Building
426 Auditorium Road
Room 439
East Lansing, MI 48824

517-355-8420
Fax: 517-355-9601

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

1. Request to delete the curriculum and degree requirements for the **Minor in Religion in the Americas** in the Department of Religious Studies. The University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) will provide consultative commentary to the Provost after considering this request. The Provost will make a determination after considering the consultative commentary from the University Committee on Undergraduate Education.

No new students are to be admitted to the program effective Fall 2018. No students are to be readmitted to the program effective Fall 2018. Effective Spring 2020, coding for the program will be discontinued and the program will no longer be available in the Department of Religious Studies. Students who have not met the requirements for the Minor in Religion in the Americas through the Department of Religious Studies prior to Spring 2020 will have to change their program.



Michigan State University Office of the Registrar

Program Name: Religion in the Americas Degree: MNUN Sequence Number: 4		Program Request ID: 4267
Effective Dates: Spring 2020	Status: Interim	Initial Action: Deleted
Requested Date: 5/11/2020 9:56:25 AM		
<p>1. Department/School/College: 04716 Department of Religious Studies</p> <p>2. Name of Program: Religion in the Americas</p> <p>3. Name of Degree: MNUN</p> <p>4. Type of Program:</p> <p>5. Effective Start Semester: Spring 2020</p> <p>Effective End date: Spring 2020</p> <p>Will the proposed change(s) have a negative impact on students? If so, which ones?: No</p> <p>Describe impact and explain what accommodations will be made: N/A</p> <p>Reason(s) for change(s): Focus on primary major and minor.</p>		
DEPARTMENT LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS		

Approved: Department of Religious Studies
5/11/2020 4:43:40 PM by Ashley Housler for Arthur Versluis, Chairperson

COLLEGE LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS

Approved: College of Arts and Letters
5/11/2020 4:46:01 PM by Cara Cilano for Cara Cilano, Associate Dean

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DEPARTMENT of RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Arthur J. Versluis, Chairperson

Learning about religions means understanding different cultures and developing a more global perspective. The religious studies curriculum is preparation for those who seek a career in non-government organizations (NGOs), non-profit organizations, government colleges and universities, or international corporations, where a deeper understanding of cultures is essential to furthering one's future career. The department offers internships and other opportunities for students to develop work experience and to apply the study of religion in innovative ways.

Courses in religious studies are designed for students who wish to become familiar with the essential teachings, beliefs, and ethical outlooks of the world's religious traditions; for students whose future careers call for greater global cultural and religious awareness; and for students who are interested in exploring religion as a field of scholarly knowledge and human concern. Religious studies courses may be elected as single courses, in a series of related courses, or in combinations of single courses and series to form a major or a minor.

Religious studies courses investigate the multiple dimensions of religion: religious texts, myths, doctrines, and rituals, religion and ethics, religious institutions and religious experience. All courses in religious studies involve learning how to think and write about the varieties of religious phenomena and experience. Because religious world views have been such a fundamental feature of human existence, their systematic exploration widens students' perspectives, and opens us to deeper insights into the human condition. The study of religious worldviews approaches religion comparatively in a cross-cultural context.

The Department of Religious Studies offers both a major and a minor in Religious Studies, ~~as well as a minor in Religion in the Americas~~. As part of the Religious Studies major, the Department of Religious Studies also offers courses and a unique transcriptable concentration in Nonprofits and Leadership to prepare students for careers in nonprofits, non-governmental organizations, or other domestic or international organizations.

MINOR IN RELIGION IN THE AMERICAS

The Minor in Religion in the Americas, which is administered by the Department of Religious Studies, provides students with the development of critical awareness, appreciation of cultural difference and diversity as well as a structured empathy for the "other."

The minor is available as an elective to students who are enrolled in bachelor's degree programs at Michigan State University other than the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious Studies or the Minor in Religious Studies. With the approval of the department and college that administers the student's degree program, the courses that are used to satisfy the minor may also be used to satisfy the requirements for the bachelor's degree.

Students who plan to complete the requirements for the minor should consult an undergraduate advisor in Religious Studies.

Requirements for the Minor in Religion in the Americas

	CREDITS
Complete 15 credits from the following:	
1. One of the following courses (3 credits):	
REL 101 Exploring Religion	3
REL 220 Religion in America	3
2. Three of the following courses (9 credits):	
REL 221 Islam in North America	3
REL 240 Music and Spirituality in North America	3
REL 275 Magic and Mysticism: Western Esoteric Traditions	

		and Practices	3
REL 306		Native American Religions	3
REL 365		Evangelicalism in the U.S.	3
REL 375		Religion and U.S. Literature	3
REL 380		New Religions	3
3.	One of the following courses (3 credits):		
REL 465		Advanced Readings in American Religion (W)	3
REL 491		Special Topics in Religious Studies (W)	3

Minors - Undergraduate Student Enrollments and Awards By Program

Program - Description	Span		FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	Total	
Arts and Letters - Continued														
<i>Philosophy</i>														
5666-Philosophy	FS07-	Enrollments	80	62	58	57	54	61	50	64	66	76	628	
		Awards	26	16	14	6	11	15	11	17	13	16	145	
		%	33%	26%	24%	11%	20%	25%	22%	27%	20%	21%	23%	
5701-Philosophy and Law	FS09-	Enrollments	92	83	94	103	90	98	97	79	75	53	864	
		Awards	19	27	15	33	21	25	27	27	26	16	236	
		%	21%	33%	16%	32%	23%	26%	28%	34%	35%	30%	27%	
<i>Religious Studies</i>														
→ 5702-Religion in the Americas	FS09-US18	Enrollments	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	14	
		Awards	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		%	100%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%
5693-Religious Studies	FS09-	Enrollments	49	50	61	66	77	78	96	93	72	68	710	
		Awards	15	17	15	20	18	18	22	33	19	27	204	
		%	31%	34%	25%	30%	23%	23%	23%	35%	26%	40%	29%	
<i>Romance and Classical Studies</i>														
5775-Class&Ancient Mediterranean St	SS16-	Enrollments	0	0	0	0	0	7	10	15	14	15	61	
		Awards	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	3	9	
		%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	13%	14%	20%	15%	
5670-French	US08-	Enrollments	72	72	96	116	130	128	128	135	140	123	1,140	
		Awards	11	10	15	13	22	33	28	21	34	25	212	
		%	15%	14%	16%	11%	17%	26%	22%	16%	24%	20%	19%	

Fiscal Year (FY) counts are distinct student counts within the Summer, Fall, and Spring terms.
e.g. FY07=distinct student count within Summer 06, Fall 06, and Spring 07.
If a student changed majors within the FY, he/she is counted under both majors.