

Memo

To: Funke Fontenot, Chair, COAS C&I Committee

From: James Winchester

CC: Stephen Auerbach

Date: 4/3/12

Re: B.A in Philosophy with a Religion and Philosophy Concentration

The Philosophy program currently offers several courses that deal with either religion or the intersection of philosophy and religion: Philosophy of Religion; Confucianism and Daoism; and Myth Magic and Psychoanalysis as well as courses in Buddhism and Hinduism. The Department of Government and Sociology offers an upper level course in Sociology of Religion. The History Department offers a course in the History of American Religion. There are also many students interested in Philosophy and Religion.

We propose to offer a degree in Philosophy with a concentration in religion. Students wishing to get this degree would take 4 upper division courses in Philosophy and 4 upper division courses in Religion. Students would continue taking Survey of Philosophy and Logic and Critical Thinking as part of their Area F requirements.

Although there is clearly a difference between the study of religious practice and the study of philosophical theories, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism and Hinduism in particular straddle the border between religion and philosophy. Allowing our students to complete their degree along this track will increase the diversity of our curriculum. In particular, it will enable our students to obtain an increased understanding of the non-Western world. Finally, there is a great deal of student interest in the study of religion and this track will offer students a chance to pursue that interest in a more sustained way than is presently possible.

Given that these courses are already part of the course rotation, there will clearly be enough courses offered so that students can fulfill the requirements for the concentration within two years.

B.A. in Philosophy: Religion concentration

AREA F: 12 hours

Foundational Courses in Philosophy: 6 Hours

PHIL 2210 Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 2250 Logic and Critical Thinking

Language Requirements: 0-9 hours

Students must demonstrate minimum proficiency at the level of the fourth university course (2002) in one foreign language, but only the fourth university course (2002) can count in Area F. Any hours not applied to Area F may be applied towards elective hours.

Additional Requirement: 3 hours

Any 1000-2000 level course in ARTS, ECON, HIST, IDST, MUSC, POLS, PSYC, RHET, SOCI, RELI

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 39 hours

Major Areas: 24 hours

Take any 4 upper (3000-4000) level courses with a PHIL prefix, with the approval of the adviser.

Take 4 courses out of the following:

RELI 3950 History of Buddhism in Asia

PHIL 4950 Philosophy of Religion

RELI 3950 South Asian Buddhism

RELI 3940 Hindu Religious Tradition

PHIL 4950 Confucianism and Daoism

RELI 3310 The Hebrew Bible

RELI 3950 Intro to Hinduism

HIST 4405 Religion in American History

SOCI 4950 Sociology of Religion

Capstone Requirement: 3 hours :

Successful completion of a senior capstone experience. This could include a paper submitted for publication in a journal, or a paper submitted for presentation at a conference.

*Students must have at least 39 credits at the 3000-4000 level and 120 total hours to graduate.