

Proposal Form

Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

PLEASE COMPLETE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5:

1. Fill in the name and number of the course, the name of the policy, or the curriculum/major proposed for modification.

Course REL 120 Introduction to World Religions

Policy _____

Curriculum or major* _____

* submit copies of the current and proposed requirements for the major

2. Addition _____ Deletion _____ Change X

3. Does this proposal impact other majors or minors? Yes** ___ No X

4. Does this proposal impact the Cornerstone program? Yes** X No ___

5. Does this proposal impact teacher licensure? Yes** ___ No X

** If yes, obtain appropriate signatures (signifying review) below.

Attach a statement that addresses each of items 6 through 11:

6. Nomenclature of course(s) (Department, Number, Title, Credit Hours)

7. Catalog description of course(s) (including prerequisites), curriculum or policy
(For changes, please submit a description of the existing course, policy, or curriculum.)

8. Relationship to major, other disciplines and frequency of offering

9. Proposed configuration [traditional (MWF 50 min. or TTh 75 min.) or other]

10. (a) A complete statement of the proposal's rationale to assist consideration by the EPCC

(b) A 5-line summary of the rationale to be presented to the full faculty

11. Cost estimates and staff estimates

APPROVED BY:

Signature of proposer

Date

Signature of Division Chair

Signature of Department Chair

REVIEWED BY:

Signature of Academic Dean

Signature of Education Department Chair**

Signature of Department Chair in affected major**

Signature of Cornerstone Director**

**if applicable

Upon completion of this form, print a copy to be circulated for signatures. In addition, send a copy of the proposal as an email attachment to epcc@simpson.edu

PROPOSED CHANGE of REL 120

EXISTING COURSE

120. Introduction to World Religions.

This course provides a basic introduction to several major world religions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism from the Eastern tradition and Judaism, Islam, and Christianity from the Western tradition. The course will acquaint students with foundational rituals, concepts, and/or literature of each tradition, and will introduce the comparative study of religion. Students will become aware of global religious movements as well as the diversity of religious traditions currently practiced in the United States. *Cornerstone 4A*. Three hours.

PROPOSED CHANGE

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RELATIONSHIP TO MAJOR, OTHER DISCIPLINES, AND FREQUENCY OF OFFERING

Religion major: Required.

One option to fulfill a requirement for some other majors, including International Management.

Offered at least once per academic year.

PROPOSED CONFIGURATION

MWF or TTh

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

During the past two years, it has become very clear that this course meets the criteria for Cornerstone 7. We begin with Eastern traditions and spend the majority of the course time on religions that are less familiar to most of our students: Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, and Islam. We also discuss Judaism and Christianity, and end with a brief unit on tribal religions: African, Polynesian, and Native American. Because religion is so interconnected with culture and politics, we spend a fair amount of time looking at the geography, cultural context, and political circumstances of countries outside the United States. (For instance, the creation of Pakistan as a country emerges from a Hindu/Muslim conflict in India; Buddhism spread quickly and effectively into Sri Lanka.) In every case, the texts associated with the religions we study are written in unfamiliar languages (Sanskrit, Pail, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, etc.), so we talk about the importance of language and the challenges of reading in translation.

COST ESTIMATES AND STAFF ESTIMATES

N/A