CAS/GRS Course Revision Proposal Form

This form is to be used when proposing a revision of an existing CAS or GRS course.

Once completed, this form should be submitted to Senior Academic Administrator Peter Law (617-353-7243) as a PDF file to pgl@bu.edu.

For further information or assistance, contact Associate Dean Joseph Bizup (617-353-2409; jbizup@bu.edu) about CAS courses or Associate Dean Jeffrey Hughes (617-353-2690; hughes@bu.edu) about GRS courses.

DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM: CAS/RN

CURRENT COURSE NUMBER: 103

CURRENT COURSE NAME: Religions of the World: Eastern

CURRENT 40 WORD COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto. Focus on the world view of each tradition and the historical development of that world view. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CURRENT CROSS-LISTING DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM, if any:

TO BE OFFERED NEXT: _Fall/2017____

INSTRUCTOR(S): Eckel (Hughes in Spring 2018)

DEPARTMENT CONTACT NAME AND POSITION: April Hughes

DEPARTMENT CONTACT EMAIL AND PHONE: adhughes@bu.edu

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REVISION (check all that apply):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>□ Course Number</th>
<th>□ 40 Word Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Title</td>
<td>□ Prerequisites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Short Title</td>
<td>□ Divisional Studies Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Credits</td>
<td>□ Other (Explain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Cross-listing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes: The “short title” appears in the course inventory and on student transcripts and must be 15 characters maximum including spaces. The “40 word description” appears in the CAS/GRS Bulletin.

PROPOSED REVISIONS: For each item checked above, provide the current information, then the proposed information, then a brief explanation for the proposed change, including the intended impact of the change.

1. [First item checked]
a. Current information: Religions of the World: Eastern

b. Proposed information: Religions of Asia

c. Explanation & impact: The term “Eastern” (as in Eastern Religion) is anachronistic and misleading. The RN APR process rebuked us for our continued use of these antiquated categories. Also problematic is the presumption that any two courses could cover all of the Religions of the World. Thinking positively, the new title will immediately signal the precise focus of the class: religions that are practiced in Asian communities. The title allows for the study of various religions (including Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and so forth) practiced in Asia or in Asian diaspora communities.

2. [Second item checked]

Current information: WRLD RELIG EAS

a. Proposed information: Asian Religions

b. Explanation & impact: Again, we hope to avoid anachronistic categories and needless exaggeration (“World” religions; “Eastern” religions).

IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS: Will any of these changes have an impact on students pursuing the degree requirements or expectations of other departments, programs, or schools?
Check one: ☐ Yes  ☑ No

If YES, please identify impacts and attach cognate comment from the appropriate department/program/school.

RESOURCE NEEDS: STAFFING, FACILITIES, AND EQUIPMENT: As a result of the proposed changes, will there be any changes in the staffing, special facilities or equipment needs of the course (e.g. laboratory, library, instructional technology, technical resources, etc)?
Check one: ☐ Yes  ☑ No

If YES, explain further and indicate whether currently available staffing, facilities, and equipment are adequate for the proposed course. (NOTE: Approval of proposed revisions does not imply a change in resource commitments on the part of CAS.)

FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ORDER FOR THIS PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. A complete week-by-week SYLLABUS with student learning objectives, readings, and assignments that reflects the proposed changes (see guidelines on “Writing a Syllabus” on the Center for Teaching & Learning website. Be sure that syllabus includes your expectations for academic honesty, with URL for pertinent undergraduate or GRS academic conduct code(s).
2. Cognate comment from chairs or directors of relevant departments and/or programs. Use the form available here. You can consult with Joseph Bizup (CAS) or Jeffrey Hughes (GRS) to determine which departments or programs inside and outside of CAS would be appropriate.
This course is an introduction to the religious traditions of India, China, Japan, and Korea, which will include Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto. We will study the classical forms of each of these traditions and also consider the way they have adapted to the challenges of the modernity. The course is structured for the student who has had little or no previous background in any of the religious traditions discussed during the semester. This course can serve as a foundation for other religion courses or further study on your own.

Contact details and office hour policies
Office: 147 Bay State Rd., #403; phone 617-358-3585; email: adhughes@bu.edu

Office hours:  Monday 10:30-11:30am (drop-in)
              Wednesday 10:30-11:30am (drop-in)
              Friday 1:00-2:00pm (by appointment)

Friday appointments must be requested by 3 pm on Thursday, but can be scheduled weeks in advance. There is no appointment until you have received confirmation.

If you cannot make regular office hour times, we can find another mutually agreeable time.

Accessibility: My office is on the fourth floor. There is a small, non-wheelchair accessible elevator in 147 Bay State Rd (which is where our second floor classroom is). If you require other accommodations, please let me know.
Lectures will be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00am to 10:00am in EPC 207. Discussion Sections are scheduled for the times listed below. All students should register for lectures (A1) and for one of the discussion sections (A2, A3, A4, or A5). To enjoy the course and be successful, you will need to attend the lectures faithfully and be a lively participant in section discussions.

A2 CGS 423 Mon 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
A3 CGS 311 Wed 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
A4 EPC 203 Thu 11:00 - 12:00 p.m.  
A5 PSY B42 Fri 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  

* The first meeting of sections will be held during the second week of the semester. *

**Required Texts**


* Also please note that there are readings available in PDF format on our Blackboard Learn site along with handouts and study guides for the supplemental readings. To access the website you will need to use your BU ID and Kerberos password.

**Disabilities:**

In accordance with University policy (see [http://www.bu.edu/disability/policies/index.html](http://www.bu.edu/disability/policies/index.html)), a student who requires accommodation for a documented disability of any type should meet with me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate modifications to course requirements or procedures. I strive to make my classroom disability-friendly. The more clearly I understand what will be helpful, the better I can do that.

**Academic Integrity:**

Every student is expected to be familiar with and comply with the BU policy on academic integrity, which can be found at: [http://www.bu.edu/cas/undergraduate/conductcode.html](http://www.bu.edu/cas/undergraduate/conductcode.html). I will refer any suspected case of academic misconduct to the Dean’s Office. Any assignment judged, after a hearing by the Academic Conduct panel, to be plagiarized will receive a grade of “0.” We will discuss plagiarism and independent work in class.
Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: Attendance at all class sessions is necessary. Attendance will be taken in every discussion section and often in lecture as well. Together, attendance and participation will account for 15% of your grade, although if you miss a substantial number of classes your grade is subject to further deduction. Even if you miss a class session for a valid reason you will still be responsible for any material covered or announcements given. You may want to exchange contact information with one or more of your classmates so that you can borrow notes or ask for course updates if you are absent. If you need to miss class due to a religious holiday, that will, of course, be excused. Just let your TF know in advance.

Examinations: There will be three exams during the course. Two during lecture that are worth 15% each on Friday 10/7 and Friday 11/11. There will be a final exam (worth 20%) scheduled during the final exam period. Each in-class exam will not be cumulative, but the final exam will be cumulative, although it will focus on the material covered after the second in-class exam. All of the exams will have a section of short identification questions and primary text analysis. Materials for the exam will come from both the readings and lectures.

Short written assignment: You will be expected to complete a short written assignment of 350-500 words (worth 5%). It will be due as a hard copy during the second week at the beginning of class in your discussion section. There are no make-ups for these and no late assignments will be accepted.

Papers: You will write two short papers of 1200-1400 words each (worth 15% each). Detailed assignment sheets for each paper will be handed out during the semester. There are no rewrites. The papers are due as hard copies in lecture on Monday 10/24 and Wednesday 11/30.

Grading Scale:
Percentages of points accumulated will be converted to letter grades according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schedule:

Wednesday, September 7 – Introduction to the course
* no readings

Friday, September 9 – Introduction to Religious Studies
* Brent Nongbri, Before Religion: A History of a Modern Concept, pages 1-7 and 15-24 (PDF).
Monday, September 12 – Hinduism
Read Hindu Historical Background handout (PDF).
Watch 330 Million Gods video (52 minutes) on Youtube. Be sure to read over the discussion questions on Blackboard prior to watching the film.
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQwva2gj4O4&list=PLNs-vzdVMAaR14SnMiDLYeXI6CB55y3SU)

** Short Paper Assignment due in discussion this week as a hard copy **

Wednesday, September 14 – Hinduism
* Oxtoby pages 28-34 (Book).

Friday, September 16 – Hinduism
* Oxtoby pages 34-40 (Book).

Monday, September 19 – Hinduism
* Oxtoby pages 41-59 (Book).

Wednesday, September 21 – Hinduism
* Miller, trans., pages 1-72 (Book).

Friday, September 23 – Hinduism
* Miller, trans., pages 73-146 (Book).

Monday, September 26 – Hinduism
* Oxtoby pages 60-75 (Book).

Wednesday, September 28 – Hinduism
* Oxtoby pages 76-103 (Book).

Friday, September 30 – Jainism
* Oxtoby pages 148-183 (Book).

Monday, October 3 – Buddhism
* Oxtoby pages 186-198 (Book).
* Gethin pages 1-16 (PDF).

Wednesday, October 5 – Buddhism
* Gethin pages 16-34 (PDF).
Friday, October 7 – **Exam 1 in lecture (covers Hinduism and Jainism)** **

Tuesday, October 11 (We are meeting on Tuesday due to the holiday on Monday) – Buddhism  
* Oxtoby pages 198-204 (Book).

Wednesday, October 12 – Buddhism  
* Oxtoby pages 204-209 and 241-245 (Book).
* John Strong “Naga Tries to Become a Monk,” in *The Experience of Buddhism*, pages 60-61 (PDF).
* John Strong “Nagasena Disobeys his Master,” in *The Experience of Buddhism*, pages 86-87 (PDF).

Friday, October 14 – Buddhism  
* John Strong “The Life Story of the Buddha,” in *The Experience of Buddhism*, pages 24-33 section 1.7 (You can skip the translation of the Vessantara in Strong. Read the separate Vessantara PDF instead.) (PDF).

Monday, October 17 – Theravada Buddhism in S/SE Asia  
* Oxtoby pages 209-217 and 246-250 (Book).

Wednesday, October 19 – Theravada Buddhism in S/SE Asia  

Friday, October 21 – Mahayana Buddhism  
* Leon Hurvitz, trans., Selections from the *Lotus Sūtra* in *Scripture of the Lotus Blossom of the Fine Dharma* (PDF).
Monday, October 24 – Mahayana Buddhism
* Luis Gomez (Translator), *The Shorter Sukhavativyuha Sūtra in Land of Bliss, the Paradise of the Buddha of Measureless Light*, pages 15-22 (PDF).


** Paper Assignment One due in lecture **

Wednesday, October 26 – Vajrayana Buddhism
* Oxtoby pages 232-241 and 254-261 (Book).

Friday, October 28 – Vajrayana Buddhism


Monday, October 31 – Confucianism
* Oxtoby pages 264-278 and 288-293 (Book).

Wednesday, November 2 – Confucianism


Friday, November 4 – Confucianism

Monday, November 7 – Daoism
* Oxtoby pages 278-288 and 293-306 (Book).

Wednesday, November 9 – Daoism
* D.C. Lau, trans. Selections from the *Laozi or Daode jing*

Friday, November 11 – ** Exam 2 in lecture (covers Buddhism and Confucianism) **

Monday, November 14 – Daoism
* Burton Watson, trans. Selections from the *Zhuangzi*
Wednesday, November 16 – Chinese Religions
* Oxtoby pages 306-321 (Book).

Friday, November 18 – Chinese Religions
* Chün-fang Yü, “A Sūtra Promoting the White-robed Guanyin as Giver of Sons” Religions of China in Practice, pages 97-105 (PDF).

Monday, November 21 – Korean Religions

Wednesday, November 23 – NO CLASS for the Thanksgiving holiday

Friday, November 25 – NO CLASS for the Thanksgiving holiday

Monday, November 28 – Korean Religions
* Oxtoby pages 322-338 (Book).

Wednesday, November 30 – Korean Religions

** Paper Assignment Two due in lecture **

Friday, December 2 – Shinto and Japanese Religions
* Oxtoby pages 342-362 (Book).

Monday, December 5 – Shinto and Japanese Religions
* Oxtoby pages 362-379 (Book).

Wednesday, December 7 – Shinto and Japanese Religions

Friday, December 9 – Current Issues
* Oxtoby pages 382-399 (Book).

Monday, December 12 – Review
* no readings

** Final Exam – Monday, December 19 from 9:00am-11:00am in EPC 207 **