

Part II Description of Curriculum Change

1. Catalog description for the revised program:

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The program in Religious Studies is designed to provide a balanced, nonsectarian, cross-cultural approach leading to a better understanding of the phenomenon of religion in human experience. It emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach and encourages the minor or a double major, as well as a single major in Religious Studies.

The program is valuable for those planning to teach about religions or religious studies in schools at the primary, secondary, or college level. The program also provides an excellent background for graduates planning to enter Catholic, Jewish, or Protestant seminaries. Additionally, Religious Studies is a good complement to majors in such fields as Anthropology, English, Fine Arts, History, International Studies, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. Religious Studies is one significant way to integrate course studies within the university curriculum.

In addition to the 27 semester hours of Religious Studies courses in the major, three semester hours must be taken from a number of courses offered by other departments which complement those offered in Religious Studies. Opportunity for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural study is implicit in the study of religious themes and is required in the Religious Studies program at IUP.

MINOR

The requirements for a Minor in Religious Studies are 15cr:

1. 15cr must be taken from the Religious Studies offerings, which include certain required courses (see below).

LIBERAL STUDIES OFFERINGS

The Religious Studies program's Liberal Studies courses are all introductory in nature; none presupposes any Religious Studies background. The student may choose from the following: RLST 100 Introduction to Religion, 110 World Religions, 250 Understanding the Bible, 290 Christianity.

2. Summary of changes:

2a. Table comparing old and new programs:

BA-Religious Studies

Current Program:

Liberal Studies: As outlined in Liberal Studies section with the following specifications: 53-55
Liberal Studies Electives: no courses with RLST prefix.

Proposed Program:

Liberal Studies: As outlined in Liberal Studies section with the following specifications: 53
Liberal Studies Electives: no courses with RLST prefix.
math 3cr

College:
Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1) 0-6

Major: 30
Controlled Electives: (2)
One course from list A: RLST 100 or 110 3cr
One course from list B: RLST 210 or 250 3cr
One course from list C: RLST 370 or 375 3cr
One course from list D: RLST 380, 410, or 440 3cr
Four additional RLST courses (3) 12cr
Two courses from religion-related courses (3) 6cr

Other Requirements: 0

Free Electives: 33-41

Total Degree Requirements: 124

(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in the Liberal Studies electives.

(2) Other courses may be approved in consultation with advisor.

(3) Consult Religious Studies advisor.

Minor-Religious Studies

Current Program: 15

RLST 100 or 110 3cr
RLST 370 or 375 3cr
RLST 380 or 410 or 440 3cr
Elective in Religious Studies (1) 3cr
Religion-related course (1) 3cr

(1) Consult Religious Studies advisor.

College:
Foreign Language Intermediate Level (1) 0-6

Major: 30
Controlled Electives: (2)
Core: RLST 100 or 110 3cr
Western: RLST 260, 290, 380, 410 or 440 3cr
Eastern: RLST 311, 370 or 375 3cr
Indigenous: RLST 360 or 365 3cr
Five elective RLST courses (3) 15cr
One religion-related course (3) 3cr

Other Requirements: 0

Free Electives: 31-37

Total Degree Requirements: 120

(1) Intermediate-level Foreign Language may be included in the Liberal Studies electives.

(2) Other courses may be approved in consultation with advisor.

(3) Consult Religious Studies advisor.

Proposed Program:

15

Core: RLST 100 or 110 3cr
Western: RLST 260, 290, 380, 410 or 440 3cr
Eastern: RLST 311, 370 or 375 3cr
Indigenous: RLST 360 or 365 3cr
Elective: one other RLST course (1) 3cr

(1) Consult Religious Studies advisor.

2b. List of all associated course changes (new or revised courses, number, title, or description changes, and deletions).

1. Catalog description:

A. Paragraph one, sentence two has been changed from:

It emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach by a) requiring religion-related courses outside Religious Studies and by b) encouraging the minor or a double major, rather than a single major in Religious Studies.

To:

It emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach and encourages the minor or a double major, as well as a single major in Religious Studies.

B. Paragraph two, sentence one has been changed from:

The program is valuable for those planning careers in religious education, religious journalism, or religious broadcasting.

To:

The program is valuable for those planning to teach about religions or religious studies in schools at the primary, secondary, or college level.

C. The third paragraph has changed 24 semesters hours of Religious Studies in the major to 27 hours, and changed the hours of related courses from other departments from 6 to 3.

D. The Minor description has dropped points two and three, and changed point one to:
1. 15cr must be taken from the Religious Studies offerings, which include certain required course (see below).

E. The Liberal Studies description has added RLST 110 to the list of course choices.

2. Changes in the program:

A. The total credits have been reduced from 124 to 120 by way of changing the liberal studies credits from 53-55 to just 53, and changing the free electives from 33-41 to 31-37.

B. Changes in the major include:

- a) The four major categories from which one 3 cr course each must be taken, have been changed from: "list A," "list B," "list C," and "list D," to: "Core," "Western," "Eastern," and "Indigenous," respectively ("list A" and the new "Core" category include the same two courses RLST 100 Intro to Religion and RLST 110 World Religions).
- b) The "Western" religions category includes: RLST 260 American Religious Development, 290 Christianity, 380 Islam, 410 Early Christian Thought, or 440 Modern Christian Thought
- c) The "Eastern" religions category includes: RLST 311 Eastern Philosophy, 370 Religions of China and Japan, or 375 Religions of India
- d) The "Indigenous" religions category includes: RLST 350 African Religions or 365 Native North American Religions
- e) Instead of four additional RLST courses (12 credits), five elective RLST courses (15 credits) are required.
- f) Instead of two courses from religion-related courses, only one religion-related course is required.

C. Changes in the minor include:

- a) The three categories from which one 3 cr course each must be taken, have been made into four named categories: "Core," "Western," "Eastern," and "Indigenous"
- b) The "Core" includes: RLST 100 Intro to Religion and RLST 110 World Religions).
- c) The "Western" religions category includes: RLST 260 American Religious Development, 290 Christianity, 380 Islam, 410 Early Christian Thought, or 440 Modern Christian Thought
- d) The "Eastern" religions category includes: RLST 311 Eastern Philosophy, 370 Religions of China and Japan, or 375 Religions of India
- e) The "Indigenous" religions category includes: RLST 350 African Religions or 365

Native North American Religions

f) The one religion-related course has been deleted and is no longer required.

3. Rationale for Change.

Catalog description (above 2b, 1A, B, and C):

In paragraph one we have decided that a single major, rather than only a minor or a double major, is something to also encourage given the kinds of careers our students tend to enter. In paragraph two the change in the first sentence better reflects our program brochure and indicates that the teaching of religion is not always in a religious setting. The increase to 27 semester hours of Religious Studies and only 3 hours of related courses in other departments reflects our desire to allow majors and minors to take advantage of the many course offerings in the Religious Studies Dept.

Minor description (above 2b, 1D):

All five required courses must be taken in RLST, rather than in a religion-related field, to take advantage of the many course offerings in RLST, and to mirror the four categories in the new description of the major. Non-classwork semester hours no longer count toward the minor because we are reserving the internships for students who major in RLST not those who minor.

Liberal Studies description (above 2b, 1E):

RLST 110 World Religions has been added to the list of course choices because it too offers a broad introductory view of religion in human experience.

Changes in program:

– Credits (above 2b, 2A):

To meet the 120 credit mandate we are deleting 4 credits of free electives.

–Changes in the major (above 2b, 2B):

Instead of four unnamed lists A-D, we have named them to cover four broad categories of religious traditions: Core, Western, Eastern, and Indigenous religions. The Core offers basic introductory material (100 Intro to Religion, and 110 World Religions). The Western category offers religions from the so-called “Western” or monotheistic traditions, and we have added RLST 260 American Religious Development and RLST 290 Christianity to the list because they fall into that category. The Eastern category offers religions from the so-called “Eastern” or Asian traditions, and we have added RLST 311 Eastern Philosophy to the list because it falls into that category. We have added a totally new “Indigenous” category in order to fill a gap in our broad coverage of the world’s religious traditions. The two courses in this category, RLST 360 African Religions and RLST 365 Native North American Religions are already in our curriculum. We have decreased the number of religion-related courses from two to one only, while increasing the number of elective RLST courses from four to five because we feel our majors and minors need to take advantage of the upper-level courses we offer.

–Changes in the minor (above 2b, 2C):

The changes in the minor requirements have been made to balance the basic requirements

of the major: to include courses in the four categories of "Core," "Western," "Eastern," and "Indigenous." The one religion-related course has been deleted in order to include an elective RLST to take advantage of the upper-level courses we offer.

Part III. Implementation. Provide answers to the following questions:

1. How will the proposed revision affect students already in the existing program?

Those students will have a choice to follow the old or the new program.

2. Are faculty resources adequate?

Yes. The teaching loads of faculty will remain the same. No additional faculty are needed to implement this revision.

3. Are resources adequate?

Yes. This is basically a realignment of requirements; the number of our majors and minors is not yet burdensome on the program.

4. Do you expect an increase or decrease in the number of students as a result of these revisions?

We expect no change in our enrollments specifically because of the revisions. The rationale for the revisions is stated in II3 above.

IV. Periodic Assessment.

1. Describe the evaluation plan. Include evaluation criteria. Specify how student input will be incorporated into the evaluation process.

The program revisions will be evaluated based on the following criteria (not in order):

1. The provision of a broad array of courses sufficient to give a basic introduction to the concepts and areas of Religious Studies to dept. majors and minors.

2. The provision of sufficient upper-level courses to encourage the interests of dept. majors in a particular field or area within Religious Studies.

3. The provision of courses adequate as preparation for dept. majors who are entering graduate school or seminary in a continuation of their education in Religious Studies.

4. The provision of courses which offer interdisciplinary and cross-cultural study for double majors.

5. The provision of a sufficient range of liberal studies courses for the general university constituency.

Student input will be gleaned from surveys given to students in RLST courses, including non-majors as well as majors or minors, every other semester.

2. Specify the frequency of the evaluations.

Evaluations will take place every year once the program revisions have been implemented.

3. Identify the evaluating entity.

Evaluations will be done by the Religious Studies Department curriculum committee.