

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
**Senate Committee on University Priorities**  
**Memorandum**

**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** John Waterhouse  
Chair, SCUP  
Vice President, Academic

**RE:** Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: **DATE:** December 10, 2007  
Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies  
(SCUP 07-73)

---

At its December 5, 2007 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the full program proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Motion**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies, in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

encl.

c: C. Jones



OFFICE OF THE  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST

MEMO

To:	Senate Committee On University Priorities
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies <i>Bill Krane</i>
RE	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - Religious Studies (07-48A)
DATE	November 13, 2007

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of Nov 6, 2007 gives rise to the following recommendation:

**Motion:**

“that SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies.”

**The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.**

## Department of Humanities

**II. Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies****A. Preamble/Rationale****1. Preamble**

The Certificate in Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary certificate program bringing together courses from various departments in the religious studies area, allowing interested students to receive university recognition of this particular area of study.

**2. Rationale**

- a) Since its inception in 1981, the Humanities program has covered a number of areas that were not represented elsewhere or treated systematically within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Among these areas was religious studies, a discipline of great importance in the Department of Humanities and an essential element in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences. From its beginning the Department of Humanities set out to provide an essential lower-level introduction to religious studies and an upper-level specialized course in the same. Further, in the early years, a substantial list of all the religious studies courses taught across campus was compiled and included in the Humanities calendar entry. It was hoped that that list would allow students to rationalize their religious studies choices. Since then Humanities has added a number of religious studies courses to its curriculum.
- b) The creation of a Certificate in Religious Studies will build on that continuing tradition within the Department of Humanities, and will respond to a renewed interest at the university and within a growing number of departments for a more systematic approach to religious studies at SFU. Students will be able to assemble a coherent program of religious studies and to receive university recognition of their particular area of study.
- c) A Religious Studies Certificate program at SFU would be unique in British Columbia. From a search of BC colleges, university-colleges and universities, only one institution was found with a religious studies program: UBC offers an Honours, Major and Minor program in religious studies. At the following institutions elective religious studies courses are available: Douglas, UCFV, Malaspina, Thompson Rivers University, Okanagan University College, and Langara.
- d) Courses taken in the Religious Studies Certificate will provide students with a more nuanced understanding of religion in culture, literature, and history.
- e) Students would be expected to take the Certificate in the course of their degree program; no cohort is planned. Students could also be admitted into the Certificate program only, without registering in a degree credential.
- f) The Department has for some years received frequent queries about a minor/major or certificate program in religious studies. The HUM religious studies courses consistently fill and are unable to meet the demand. Five sections of HUM 230 Introduction to Religious Studies (HUM 130 as of Fall 07) offered by distance education and in-person in 2006 enrolled a total of 276

students. Four sections of HUM 330 Religion in Context were offered to a total enrolment of 94 students. Due to this high demand, Certificate students will be given priority for the Humanities core courses.

### 3. Governance

- a) The Certificate will be housed in the Department of Humanities administered by a Steering Committee with three representatives from Humanities and two interested faculty from other departments. Appointments will be effective for 2 years.
- b) The Department Manager/ Advisor will be responsible for advising students, scheduling courses, recommending graduands and other related tasks.

### 4. Curriculum/Instruction

- a) *Certificate Courses:* The program will consist of existing courses from a number of departments which already have sufficient religious content. The courses range across disciplines and epochs making the program congruent with the Humanities interdisciplinary curriculum as a whole.
- b) *The required courses* were chosen to provide students with a basic understanding of the study of religion from various disciplinary perspectives. See the attached list of calendar entries describing the courses applicable to the Certificate.
- c) *Other Relevant Courses:* Courses not on the elective list which, in a given semester, may have religious studies content may be applied to the Certificate with prior approval from the department.
- d) *Prerequisites:* No upper division course is restricted to Majors in a particular discipline. Some upper division courses on the electives list require specific prerequisites that students would need to meet; others require credit hours only. Since there is a mixture of upper and lower division courses on the electives list, this is not seen as an obstacle for students. The Women's Studies Department has indicated they would waive the prerequisites for WS 304 for Certificate students.
- e) *Distance Education:* One of the core courses (HUM 130) and one of the elective courses (HUM 102) are available by distance education.
- f) *Course demand:* Though the core HUM courses receive heavy demand, Certificate students would be given priority to register in them. No excessive impact is expected on the core/elective courses from other departments given the number of choices and varied interests of students. See memoranda of support from departments attached.
- g) *Course availability:* Core courses: HUM 130 is offered every semester either by distance education or in person three semesters per year; HUM 204 and HUM 331 will be offered at least once annually; HUM 330 is offered 2-3 semesters per year. Core courses from other departments are offered at least once per year. See chart below.
- h) *Transfer Credit:* Following common University practice, students will be able to transfer up to 15 credits of relevant coursework to the Certificate Program.

**Past Enrolments and Frequency of Offerings of Required Courses:**

<i>Course</i>	1047	1051	1054	1057	1061	1064	1067	1071
<i>Both of:</i>								
HUM 130*	100	61	51	129	93	52	128	126
HUM 330	0	24	23	24	47	24	23	27
<i>Two of:</i>								
ARCH 226	68	0	34	38	0	33	36	0
HUM 204**	NEW							
HUM 331**	NEW							
PHIL 240	30			32				

\*was HUM 230 prior to Fall 2007.

\*\*new courses as of Fall 2007 – to be offered at least once annually.

**4. Funding**

- a) No additional funds, lab space, or equipment will be required.
- b) No additional funding for faculty or instructors will be required as the courses are currently being taught with existing resources.

**Proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies**  
**Department of Humanities**

**B. CALENDAR ENTRY:**

The program encourages and facilitates the study of religious thought and its effects on civilization from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students may select courses that will provide either a focus on one tradition or a broader thematic study across a range of traditions and cultures. Courses are mainly drawn from Humanities, History, Asia-Canada and other departments in the university.

This certificate program is available to those without a bachelor's degree. Credits earned in the program may be applied to a major or minor program and to a bachelor's degree. However, credits applied to one certificate may not be applied to another SFU certificate or diploma. Students may apply a maximum of 15 transfer credits of relevant coursework to the Certificate.

**Admission Requirements:**

Prospective students must apply to Simon Fraser University for admission and meet the normal SFU admission requirements. Approval into the Certificate program must be obtained from the Humanities Department advisor.

**Certificate Requirements:**

Students are required to complete at least 30 credit hours, of which 13-14 are earned by completing the four required courses. The remaining credits are selected from the electives list.

Note that students are responsible for meeting the prerequisite requirements for courses taken towards the Certificate.

---

***Required Courses (a minimum of 13 credits)***

*Both of:*

HUM 130-3 Introduction to Religious Studies (HUM 230 prior to Fall 07)  
HUM 330-4 Religion in Context

*Two of\*\*:*

ARCH 226-3 The Prehistory of Religion: Shamans, Sorcerers and Saints  
HUM 204-3 Great Religious Texts (new in Fall 07)  
HUM 331-4 Studies in Asian Religions (new in Fall 07)  
PHIL 240-3 Philosophy of Religion

*\*\*Courses in the above list not used to meet the core requirements can be counted towards the elective requirements.*

***Elective Courses (16-17 credits)***

ASC 202-3 Studies in Asian Cultures\*  
ASC 302-3 Selected Topics in Chinese Studies\*  
ASC 303-3 Selected Topics in Japanese Studies\*  
ASC 400-3 Selected Topics in Asia-Canada Studies\*  
HIST 220-3 Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe  
HIST 249-3 Classical Islamic Civilization  
HIST 288-3 History of Christianity to 1500 (new in Fall 07)  
HIST 320-4 European Reformation  
HIST 352-4 Religion and Politics in Modern Iran  
HIST 388-4 Christianity and Globalization (revised for Fall 07)  
HIST 404-4 Protestants, Papists and Puritans: Culture and Belief in Early Modern England 1500-1640  
HIST 439-4 Catholicism in Early Modern Europe  
HIST 466-4 Religion and Society in Africa, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (new in Fall 07)  
HIST 468-4 Problems in the History of Religion (new in Fall 07)  
HIST 469-4 Islamic Social and Intellectual History  
HUM 102W-3 Classical Mythology  
HUM 203-3 Great Texts in the Humanities III\*  
HUM 219-3 The Early Middle Ages  
HUM 305-4 Medieval Studies\*  
HUM 307-4 Carolingian Civilization  
HUM 332-4 Mythology in Context  
HUM 350-4 Great Figures in Humanistic Tradition\*

HUM 375-4 The Woodsworth Seminar\*  
SA 322-4 Sociology of Religion (S)  
SA 323-4 Symbol, Myth and Meaning (A)  
WS 304-4 Women and Religion  
WS 305-4 Conceiving Creativity

*\*When topics are appropriate. Consult with the Certificate advisor.*

*Other courses with appropriate content may be counted with prior approval of the Advisor.*

---

# Proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies

## Department of Humanities

### C. MEMORANDA OF SUPPORT

The following departments have been consulted and asked for a memorandum of support.

COPY of MEMO sent to Departments:

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
Department of Humanities  
604-291-3689/Fax: 604-291-4504  
Memorandum

To: Undergraduate Curriculum Chairs:  
Asia-Canada  
Archaeology  
History  
Philosophy  
Sociology/Anthropology  
Women's Studies

From: Paul Dutton, UCC Chair

Re: Proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies

Date: 2 April 2007

Please find attached a proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies program to be housed in the Department of Humanities.

The course list contains relevant courses from your department. We do not anticipate this having a large impact on your enrolments. Please reply with any suggestions and/or responses, and, if possible:

1. A memorandum of support for the Certificate.
2. A statement that you are either willing or not willing to waive any prerequisites for the courses from your department and under what conditions.

Please respond by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

### Memoranda of support received from Departments:

#### Women's Studies

Dear Helen, thank you for the generous and helpful response. We particularly appreciate the waiving of the pre-reqs for WS 304. Would that we were able to offer that to the certificate students across the board; but we are not confident that other departments would be prepared to drop their requirements given the various pressures they are under. Yes, we shall add WS 305 to our list. We have also become cognizant from the response of various departments that we shall have to monitor and update our list of electives on a regular basis. Once again our thanks, Paul

At 10:43 AM 4/20/2007, you wrote:

Dear Dr. Dutton:

I am writing to express our Department's support of the proposed certificate in Religious Studies. At our Departmental meeting, we have decided that we are willing to waive the WS pre-regs for WS 304: Women & Religion for students pursuing the Certificate. In addition, we wonder if you would also consider adding our WS 305 (sample syllabus attached) to your list of

elective courses? The course is regularly taught by Dr. Marilyn MacDonald and deals with the relation between scientific and religious accounts of creativity. If you would like more information about the course, please contact Dr. MacDonald <marilynm@sfu.ca> who would be more than happy to provide more background to the course and to discuss its suitability for inclusion in the Certificate.

Sincerely,

Helen Leung

Helen Hok-Sze Leung, Assistant Professor

Chair of Undergraduate Program, Department of Women's Studies

---

### History

Date: Thu, 03 May 2007 14:00:48 -0700

Subject: Re: Religious Studies proposal memo to departments

From: kjfergus@sfu.ca

To: dutton@sfu.ca

Hi Paul,

I realize that this is monstrously overdue, but History supports this initiative.

Regards,

Karen

Karen Ferguson, Associate Professor

Department of History

---

### Archaeology

Date: Sat, 05 May 2007 06:29:22 -0700

Subject: Re: Certificate in Religious Studies - urgent

From: nicholas@sfu.ca

To: prisland@sfu.ca

Dear Christine

Thank you for the reminder. Between end of term grading and travel, this one slipped by.

Archaeology is in support of the certificate.

At this point, the department has not addressed the future of ARCH 226 following Dr. Brian Hayden's retirement in about two years. However, we do feel that the course is important in our curriculum, and certainly for your certificate, and hope that another faculty member will take it on.

George Nicholas

Archaeology Department Undergraduate Curriculum Chair

---

### Philosophy

Date: Wed, 9 May 2007 10:21:56 -0700

To: Christine Prisland <prisland@sfu.ca>

From: Sam Black <samuel\_black@sfu.ca>

Subject: Re: Certificate in Religious Studies - urgent

This looks like a very good idea.

Sam Black, Philosophy

---

### Asia-Canada Program

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Paul Dutton, Undergraduate Studies Chair, Humanities Department

From: Yoshi Kawasaki, Director, Asia-Canada Program

Re: Proposed Certificate in Religious Studies

Date: 9 May 2007

On behalf of the Asia-Canada Program, I support your proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies. I am willing to waive prerequisites for the relevant courses from my Program.

---

### Sociology/Anthropology

From: <mailto:kenny@sfu.ca>kenny@sfu.ca

Date: April 17, 2007 7:33:20 AM PDT (CA)

To: <mailto:duguid@sfu.ca>duguid@sfu.ca

Subject: proposed religion certificate

Hi: I've been given your religious studies proposal to look over, and don't see any problem from S&A's point of view. We only have one courses listed as an elective (SA323) and the current inclination is to keep it in the calendar tho it would have to be offered sessionally.

9.

14

I do note one thing that may be a problem from your point of view, namely the presence of ARCH226 in the required option list; it's my impression that Brian Hayden is facing MR pretty soon, so that might be worth checking on. Don't know whether anyone else in ARCH is there to pick up the ball should he depart....  
cheers: m

Department of Humanities  
Proposal for a Certificate in Religious Studies

Course Descriptions

**REQUIRED COURSES:**

---

Both of:

**HUM 130-3 Introduction to Religious Studies (revised for Fall 07)**

An introduction to concepts central to the academic study of religion exploring various relevant methodologies. Provides a framework for understanding the many ways in which humans experience the phenomenon of the sacred through symbol, ritual, doctrine and experience in a variety of religious traditions and cultures. Students who have taken HUM 230 prior to Fall 2007 may not take this course for further credit.

**HUM 330-4 Religion in Context**

An in-depth investigation of a specific case of religious history and tradition. Religion will be studied through the cultural and historical contexts that pervade and structure religious meaning and expression. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours. Students who have taken this course as HUM 304 cannot take this course for further credit.

Two of:

**ARCH 226-3 The Prehistory of Religion: Shamans, Sorcerers and Saints**

Charts the emergence and changes in the expression of human religious behaviour. It covers the earliest rituals of the Palaeolithic, the importance of fertility cults, ancestor cults, alliance rituals, shamans, witchcraft, and monotheism. Prerequisite: any lower division archaeology or anthropology course.

**HUM 204-3 Great Religious Texts (new in Fall 07)**

A study of some of the key works which have had a formative influence on major religious traditions. Primary texts will be selected to illustrate core elements in the religious understanding of human life and its relationship to the sacred. Prerequisite: 30 credit hours. HUM 130 (HUM 230 prior to Fall 2007) is recommended.

**HUM 331-4 Studies in Asian Religions (new in Fall 07)**

Studies the history and traditions of specific Asian religions through the cultural and historical contexts that structure religious meaning. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours.

**PHIL 240-3 Philosophy of Religion**

A critical analysis of classic and contemporary arguments concerning the rationality of belief in God, and related issues.

**ELECTIVE COURSES:**

---

**ASC 202-3 Studies in Asian Cultures\***

An introduction to East, Southeast or South Asian art, literature, history or philosophy. The emphasis will be on the cultural importance of the themes covered and on their relationship to contemporary societies.

**ASC 302-3 Selected Topics in Chinese Studies\***

**ASC 303-3 Selected Topics in Japanese Studies\***

**ASC 400-3 Selected Topics in Asia-Canada Studies\***

**HIST 220-3 Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe (revised title and description as of Fall 07)**

An introduction to the world of late Medieval and Renaissance Europe (c. 1200 - c. 1500). Principal themes include the changing shape of medieval spirituality; the clash and integration of Christian, Jewish and Muslim cultures; the rise of new forms of secular and religious

authorities; the Black Death and the crises of the fourteenth century; and the intellectual and cultural movements of the Italian Renaissance.

**HIST 249-3 Classical Islamic Civilization**

This course offers a broad survey of the development of classical Islamic civilization. It begins with an examination of the origins of Islam in seventh century Arabia and concludes with the break-up of the Abbasid Caliphate of Baghdad in the 13th century. Emphasis will be placed on gaining an understanding of the doctrines of Islam, the significance of the rise and fall of the early Arab-Islamic empires, and the role of Islam in world history.

**HIST 288-3 History of Christianity to 1500 (new in Fall 07)**

A survey of the history of Christianity from its origins to 1500.

**HIST 320-4 European Reformation**

An advanced examination of the complex history and patterns of the Religious Reformation in sixteenth-century Europe. Emphasis will be placed on the religious thought of the period, and on its social and political context. Prerequisite: nine hours of lower division history credit including HIST 315 or permission of the department. Strongly recommended: HIST 220 or 223. Students who have taken HIST 403-4 prior to 2005-3 cannot take this course for further credit.

**HIST 352-4 Religion and Politics in Modern Iran**

The intellectual and social history of greater Iran from the Safavids to the twentieth century. Emphasis will be on the relationship between religion and politics. Prerequisite: nine hours of lower division history credit. Recommended: one of HIST 151, 249, 241.

**HIST 388-4 Christianity and Globalization (revised for Fall 07)**

An examination of select topics in Christianity and globalization, with an emphasis on the early-modern period. Students will explore the connections between regions rather than individual regional histories. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours, including 9 hours of lower division History credit. (Was previously titled Global Histories)

**HIST 404-4 Protestants, Papists and Puritans: Culture and Belief in Early Modern England 1500-1640**

From the Reformation to the outbreak of the Civil War, this research seminar will examine the origins, development and impact of Protestantism within English society. Prerequisite: nine hours of lower division history credit including HIST 315 or permission of the department.

**HIST 439-4 Catholicism in Early Modern Europe**

An examination of the complex history of Catholicism in Europe in the period 1500-1789. By elucidating the diversity within and among institutions and religious experiences, it will challenge the traditional assumption that Catholicism constituted a religious monolith impervious to historical change. Subject for particular focus may include historiographical approaches to Catholicism, the papacy, the Society of Jesus, popular religion, the role of art. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours, including nine hours of lower division History credit and one of HIST 220, 223 or 321.

**HIST 466-4 Religion and Society in Africa, Nineteenth and Twentieth-Centuries (new in Fall 07)**

Explores the transition from the practice of indigenous religions to adherence to Christianity or Islam in Africa over the last century. Through a series of case studies, this course examines the growth of the world religions in Africa and the interaction of both with African religion. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours including nine hours of lower division history credit. Recommended: HIST 146.

**HIST 468-4 Problems in the History of Religion (new in Fall 07)**

An advanced examination into the concepts and methodology of the history of religion. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours, including 9 hours of lower-division History credit.

**HIST 469-4 Islamic Social and Intellectual History**

Advanced analysis of specific problems in Islamic social and intellectual history, with an emphasis on traditional patterns and on their transformation in the modern world. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours, including 9 hours of lower division History credit. Recommended: one of HIST 249 or 352.

**HUM 102W-3 Classical Mythology**

An introduction to the central myths of the Greeks and Romans. The course will investigate the nature, function, and meaning of myths in the classical world and their considerable influence on western civilization.

**HUM 203-3 Great Texts in the Humanities III\***

An introduction to classic texts which have endured as monuments of Asian thought and literature. Readings and discussions of primary texts and their central ideas will introduce students to philosophical, literary and religious themes in a selected, major Asian tradition. Prerequisite: 30 credit hours.

**HUM 219-3 The Early Middle Ages**

An examination of Eastern and Western Christendom from Late Antiquity to the 12<sup>th</sup>-Century Renaissance emphasizing religious, political, cultural, and social change. Students who have taken HIST 219 may not take this course for further credit.

**HUM 305-4 Medieval Studies\***

A detailed interdisciplinary analysis of a selected topic, issue, or personality in the Middle Ages. (seminar) Prerequisite: 45 credit hours.

**HUM 307-4 Carolingian Civilization**

A focused interdisciplinary study of the Carolingian civilization achieved in early medieval Europe under Charlemagne and his family. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours.

**HUM 332-4 Mythology in Context**

A detailed interdisciplinary study of the role of mythology within a particular culture or tradition. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours. Recommended: HUM 102.

**HUM 350-4 Great Figures in Humanistic Tradition\***

An interdisciplinary study of the lives and works of a man or woman who has made a lasting contribution to the humanistic tradition in more than one field of endeavour (eg, philosophy, politics, literature, economics, religion). Prerequisite: 45 credit hours. Students who have taken this topic under another humanities course number cannot take this course for further credit.

**HUM 375-4 The Woodsworth Seminar\***

A special topic in the Humanities to be offered by the Woodsworth chair. Prerequisite: 45 credit hours.

**SA 322-4 Sociology of Religion (S)**

An examination of the development and social impact of religious institutions in modern industrial societies. Consideration will be given to the classical theoretical approaches to the sociology of religion, and further topics which may be considered include: denominational religion in Britain and North America; the secularization thesis; the relationship between science and religion, and the organization, structure and social appeal of sectarian groups in contemporary society. Prerequisites: SA 150 and one second year sociology (S) or sociology/anthropology (SA) course.

**SA 323-4 Symbol, Myth and Meaning (A)**

An examination of myth, symbolism, ritual and cosmological systems. Anthropological theories of magic, possession, witchcraft, healing and religious movements analyzed in ethnographic context. Prerequisite: SA 101 and one of SA 201, 263, 286 or 293.

**WS 304-4 Women and Religion**

This course examines critical issues of women's relationships to theology and religious practice in major religious traditions. Prerequisite: six credits in women's studies including WS 101 and/or 102.

**WS 305-4 Conceiving Creativity**

Through the lens of science fiction, this course focuses on scientific and religious accounts of creativity, and of responsibility for (and to) the outcomes of that creativity. In considering the range of relations amongst science and religion, it draws upon theories from social justice studies, including such topics as representation, participation and motivation within professional and other community domains of creativity. Prerequisite: 30 credit hours. Students who have taken WS 310 (Special Topics) under this title may not take WS 305 for further credit.

*\*When topics contain sufficient Religious Studies content. Consult with the Certificate advisor.*