

New Program Code Replace Program Code Date: _____

REQUESTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Campus _____
 Title _____ Email _____
 Office/Dept _____ Phone _____

NEW PROGRAM CODE TO CREATE

Institution _____ Campus _____
 Level _____ Effective Term _____

	Code (Max. Characters)	Description	Check if requesting new code:
College	(2) _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> See Banner form STV_COLL
Department	(4) _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> See Banner form STV_DEPT
Degree/Certificate	(6) _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> See Banner form STV_DEGC
Major	(4) _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> See Banner form STV_MAJR
Concentration	(4) _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> See Banner form STV_MAJR
Minor	(4) _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> See Banner form STV_MAJR

If a similar major/concentration code exists in Banner, please list the code: _____

Justification to warrant a new major/concentration code similar to an existing major/concentration code:

Is this major/concentration code being used the same way at the other UH campuses? Yes No
 Should this program be available for applicants to select as their planned course of study on the online application? *If yes, student may select the code as their only program of study.* Yes No

RULES PERTAINING TO FINANCIAL AID AND 150% DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOAN LIMIT LEGISLATION

Is 50% or greater of the classes in this program offered at a location other than the Home Campus? Yes No
 Is this program/major/certificate financial aid eligible? Yes No
 Does this certificate qualify as a Gainful Employment Program (Title IV-eligible certificate program)? Yes No

See <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo/index.html>

Program Length

In academic years; decimals are acceptable. The length of the program should match what is published by the campus in any online and/or written publication.

Special Program Designations A B N P T U

See *Special Program Designations Code Definitions on IRAO Program Code Request webpage*

Required Terms of Enrollment: Fall Spring Summer Extended

EXISTING PROGRAM CODE TO REPLACE, IF APPLICABLE

Program Code _____	Program Description _____
Institution _____	Campus _____
College _____	Department _____
Level _____	
Are current students "grandfathered" under the program code? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Should the old program code be available for use in Banner? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Effective , old program code will no longer be available to admit or recruit students.	
<small>Term (ie. Fall 2020)</small>	
<i>This will turn off the online application, recruitment (effects Banner forms SRASUMI and SRAQUIK) and admissions (effects Banner forms SAADCRV, SAAADMS, SAASUMI, SAAQUIK, and SAAQUAN) Banner modules.</i>	
Effective , old program code will no longer be available to award degree to students.	
<small>Term (ie. Fall 2020)</small>	
<i>This will turn off the general student (effects Banner form SGASTDN) and academic history (effects Banner form SHADEGR) Banner modules.</i>	

ATTACHMENTS

BOR Approved: Sole-credential Certificate, Associate, Bachelor and Graduate Degrees, and sole credential certificates

- BOR Meeting Minutes & Supporting Documents Curriculum

Chancellor Approved: Concentrations, Certificates and Associate in Technical Studies (ATS) Degree

- Memo from Chancellor to notify Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy regarding program action.
 Curriculum

<p>CERTIFICATES ONLY: Please check one (1) statement. This certificate is a...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> BOR approved certificate. BOR Meeting/Approval Date: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chancellor approved within an authorized BOR program. BOR Program: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chancellor approved CO in accordance with UHCCP 5.203, Section IV.B.10.</p>

VERIFICATIONS

By signing below, I verify that I have reviewed and confirm the above information that is pertinent to my position.

<p>Registrar (Print Name)</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Financial Aid Officer (Print Name)</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>For Community Colleges, verification of consultation with OVPCC Academic Affairs: Tammi Oyadomari-Chun</p> <p>_____</p>
Signature	Date	Signature
Signature	Date	Signature
Date	Date	Date

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



July 14, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Lassner
President

VIA: Michael Bruno *Michael Bruno*
Provost

VIA: Laura E. Lyons *Laura E. Lyons*
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

VIA: Julienne Maeda *Julienne Maeda*
Acting Dean, Graduate Division

VIA: Peter Arnade *Peter Arnade*
Dean, College of Arts, Languages & Letters

FROM: Kapali Lyon
Chair, Department of Religion

Kapali Lyon

SUBJECT: Request to amend the degree title of the Master of Arts in the Department of Religion

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the President amend the degree title of the MA in the Department of Religion from "Religion (Asian)" to "Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific."

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2022

ADDITIONAL COST:

None

PURPOSE:

Better reflect the coursework and content of UH's MA in religion.

BACKGROUND:

The MA program in the Department of Religion has been-and will continue to be-unique in that it focuses on religions of Asia and the Pacific. The current degree title of "Religion (Asian)" was put in place many years ago and does not adequately represent the students' coursework and research. Also,

the new name is more in keeping with the stated goals of our university. The University of Hawai'i is a nexus for research and education on Asia and the Pacific and our Department of Religion is the only one among all American Universities to offer a graduate degree that concentrates on the religious traditions of these two regions.

Note that this request parallels a separate action memo requesting to modify the requirements of the MA in Religion (Asia) in the Department, effective Fall 2022. If approved, the modified requirements will continue to focus on religions of Asia and the Pacific.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommended that the President amend the degree title of the MA in the Department of Religion from "Religion (Asian)" to "Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific."

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:
with comments

As discussed with the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Excellence including Graduate Division, there are some reservations with the number of required courses (6) and want to ensure that the program is flexible with students fulfilling these requirements if course availability proves problematic. We would like the program to generally monitor and evaluate enrollments in the degree program and courses to ensure required resources are reasonable and justifiable, and monitor and evaluate student movement through the program in the next 2-3 years and consider scaling back from 6 required classes to 4, if it proves untenable. Per A Goodwin, request was shared with CCAO for comments.

December 30, 2021

David Lassner
President

Date

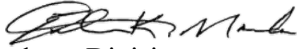
Attachment: Approved program modification for the MA in Religion (Asia).




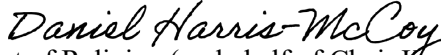
September 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Lyons
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

VIA: Julienne Maeda 
Acting Dean, Graduate Division

VIA: Peter Arnade 
Dean, College of Arts, Languages, and Letters

FROM: Daniel Harris-McCoy 
Acting Chair, Department of Religion (on behalf of Chair Kapali Lyon)

SUBJECT: Request to modify the Master of Arts in Religion (Asia)

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence approve the proposed changes to the MA degree in Religion (Asia) in the Department of Religion.

Note that this request parallels a separate action memo requesting to amend the degree title of the existing MA degree in the Department of Religion from Religion (Asia) to Religion Traditions of Asia and the Pacific.

REQUESTED EFFECTIVE TERM:

Fall 2022.

ADDITIONAL COST:

No additional costs are anticipated.

RATIONALE/PURPOSE OF PROPOSED CHANGE(S):

The MA program in Religion has been—and will continue to be—unique in that it focuses on religions of Asia and the Pacific. In the past, students were required to take REL600 (*The Study of Religion*), three courses in their specific area of research (e.g., India, Japan, China, Hawai'i), and the remaining units from our other graduate offerings and 400-level courses. Courses from outside the department were permitted on a case-by-case basis. With the drop in Humanities enrollments and our decreased faculty size (from nine to six), this model has become increasingly untenable. Many courses in recent years have been under-enrolled, and planning has been difficult because we cannot predict the makeup of our incoming class and are, therefore, unsure which core-areas need to be taught. To maintain this model in the future, we would need to offer many courses that are likely to be under-enrolled, sometimes at the cost of not teaching well-attended undergraduate courses.

Consequently, we propose the changes detailed below to help faculty members offer well-attended courses and better serve our students. As you will see, six required courses will form the basis of the MA degree. Each tenure-track faculty member will teach, on average, only one graduate course over two years unless a faculty member decides to offer an additional course as an overload. While sabbaticals and other demands will require some flexibility, we hope to offer them on the following schedule so that no Religion faculty member will be expected to teach more than one graduate course over a two-year period.

Course	Fall 22	Spring 23	Fall 23	Spring 24
REL 600	✓			
REL 601	✓			
REL 602				✓
REL 603			✓	
REL 604		✓		
REL 605			✓	

This reduction in both the number and kinds of courses offered should eliminate under-enrolled graduate courses since all enrolled graduate students will be required to take each of these six courses. Also, each of these new courses has been designed so that the department can assign them to several different faculty members, even while ensuring that students will carry out the research component of each class under the supervision of an area expert. Even if the department experiences unexpected faculty losses before rehiring resumes, this proposed program can continue to be offered, especially once the planned merger between Religion and Classics is completed (Spring 2022).

We hope that the proposed program changes will be in place for students who want to apply for Fall 2022 admission (a stop-out is in place for AY 2021-2022).

DETAILED LIST OF CHANGE(S):

We propose to eliminate the required area-specific courses and, in their place, offer six courses that all students must take, all dealing with essential topics in the religions of Asia and the Pacific:

- REL 600 - The Study of Religion (existing)
- REL 601 - Sacred Space
- REL 602 - The Study of Religion in Practice
- REL 603 - The Study of New Religious Movements
- REL 604 - Indigenous Religions & Decolonial Theories and Methods
- REL 605 -Healing in the Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific

One of these six required courses is an existing course (REL 600), and all other courses are new courses. Note none of the core courses have any major/department restrictions: any interested graduate student may take them. If the five new courses are approved, we will eliminate four courses (REL 625, 630, 650, and 664) that are unlikely to be offered in the future. While we expect to eliminate other courses in the future, we have not yet arrived at a complete list. We will need the experience of one or more cohorts before we eliminate additional courses. Note that we are submitting the UHM1 forms (REL 601, 602, 603, 604, 605) and UHM2 forms (REL 625, 630, 650, 664) with the present memo. No other graduate courses will be offered unless individual faculty members choose to teach an additional course on an overload basis. We have designed these

new courses so that any member of our graduate faculty can teach them, but in such a way that students will still do area-specific research under the direct guidance of an area expert.

If these five courses are approved, all students in a cohort will take the same six required courses over a two-year period. The remaining required units would come 400-level courses, occasional graduate courses taught as overload, and acceptable courses outside the department. Courses from outside the department have to be approved by the student's faculty advisor. Historically, the department has had a liberal and collaborative attitude in accepting such courses.

Each required course will follow a collaborative writing and research schedule. Students will work directly with an expert in their research area while writing papers and preparing projects, whether or not that expert is the teacher of record for the course. This plan will allow the department to reduce the number of graduate offerings and ensure that students can focus on the Asia-Pacific area and religion of their choice under the direct supervision of an area or subject expert. All members of the department have agreed to implement and collaborate in the following schedule for each required graduate course:

During the research portion of this course (Weeks 8 through 16) students will have the opportunity to work directly with an expert in their research area while writing papers and preparing projects, either the faculty member of record for the course or another professor in the department. This will allow students to complete a paper or project within their chosen area of focus (e.g. Indian Religions, Hawaiian Religion), which nonetheless pertains to the thematic focus of the particular course. Papers will be graded by the faculty of record in consultation with other faculty experts as appropriate. Papers cannot be re-used in subsequent courses. They can, however, form the foundation for later thesis work.

As with all required graduate seminars in the department, this course will adhere to the following agreed-upon research schedule:

- Week 8: Initial topic proposal
- Week 9: Synopsis and preliminary bibliography
- Week 10: Finalized proposal, outline, and suggested advisor
- Week 11: Faculty of record and area-specialist (if any) meet to determine supervision of papers/projects
- Weeks 11-16: Individual faculty members conduct weekly checkpoint meetings with the students they are supervising to guide research, set goals, and monitor progress
- Week 14: First draft due
- Week 16: Final draft due

This collaborative research and writing plan allows the department to eliminate the required core-area courses while at the same time providing students the necessary time and supervision to work in their selected core areas.

In summary, every Religion graduate student will have the opportunity to take each required course over a two-year period. The additional units needed to meet the 30 unit requirement may come from a combination of 400-level Religion undergraduate courses as well as graduate courses taught by our department or other

departments. Only these six courses will be regularly taught by the Religion faculty as part of the regular teaching requirement, although any faculty member might choose to teach additional courses from our catalog on an overload basis.

DETAILED LIST OF CONSULTATION WITH IMPACTED PROGRAMS (if any):

No other programs will be affected

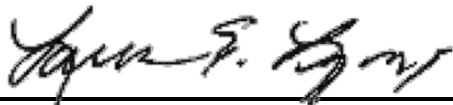
ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommended that the Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence approve the proposed changes to the MA degree in Religion (Asia) in the Department of Religion.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. A summary of catalog changes
2. The current and proposed catalog descriptions

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:



November 30, 2021

Laura Lyons
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

Date

Attachment 1: A summary of the catalog changes for the MA program in Religion

The Department of Religion proposes to add five new required courses to its MA and to change the name of the MA degree to "Religions Traditions of Asia and the Pacific.

Summary of changes

We have taken this opportunity both to make changes and to clarify existing language. Therefore, the changes are summarized here.

1) Arrangement of the catalog description

Information on required courses, electives, and language requirements that apply to both Plan A and Plan B students has been consolidated, clarified, and moved to the beginning.

2) Degree name

Current: Religion (Asian)

Proposed: Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific

3) Required units

No change (30 credits)

4) Required courses

Current: REL 600 (all students)

REL 700 (six credits for Plan A students only)

REL 688 (three credits for Plan B students only)

Proposed: REL 600, 601, 602, 603, 605, 605 (all students) (18 credits)

REL 688/700 - no change (3-6 credits)

5) Electives (6-9 credits)

No substantive change but explanation has been clarified (Up to two 400-level Religion courses; all courses from outside the department require departmental approval)

Language requirement

No substantive change but explanation has been clarified.

5) Candidacy

No change for either Plan A or B

Attachment 2: The current and proposed catalog descriptions

All changes are marked **in red**.

Current Catalog (2021-2022)	Proposed Catalog Description
<p>Graduate Study</p> <p>Master’s Degree</p> <p>The department has developed two graduate program plans leading to the MA degree: a thesis-based MA program (Plan A) and a non-thesis track (Plan B). Both Plans A and B are two-year programs.</p> <p>Admission Requirements</p> <p>Applicants to the MA program in religion must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US college, university, or its equivalent from a recognized foreign institution of higher learning. Applicants should include in the Statement of Objectives an explanation of how their academic background has prepared them for study in the religion MA program.</p> <p>Plan A</p>	<p>Graduate Study</p> <p>Master’s Degree in Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>The department has developed two graduate program plans leading to the MA degree: a thesis-based track (Plan A) and a project-based track (Plan B). Both plans are designed as two-year programs.</p> <p>Admission Requirements</p> <p>Applicants to the MA program in religion must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US college, university, or its equivalent from a recognized foreign institution of higher learning. Applicants should include a statement of objectives and an explanation of how their academic background has prepared them for study in the religion MA program.</p> <p>Required Courses</p> <p>Under both plans, students will have an opportunity to carry out in-depth research in Asian and/or Pacific religions. 30 credits are required (excluding courses</p>

The thesis program provides students with an opportunity for graduate study in Asian or Polynesian religions. 30 credits are required. Advancement to Candidacy: Candidacy may be granted after the first semester after completing 9 graduate credits plus REL 600 with a GPA of 3.0 or better (total 12 credits) and the language requirement.

Required courses (9 credits)

- REL 600 History and Theory of the Study of Religion (3)
- REL 700 Thesis Research (3, 3)

Area requirements (9 credits minimum)

Students must take at least three 600-level courses in their area of specialization (Asian or Polynesian).

Electives

Electives consist of any Religion course (400 level and above, excluding 499), other than those that fulfill program and area requirements. Two complementary graduate courses (3 credits each) from other disciplines may be accepted at the discretion of the thesis advisor and graduate chair. No more than two 400-level courses may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Language

To achieve a mastery of language at the second-year level, students are required to complete two

used to fulfill language requirements), including the following six courses (18 credits):

- REL 600 History and Theory of the Study of Religion (3)
- REL 601 Sacred Space (3)
- REL 602 The Study of the Ways Religion is Practiced (3)
- REL 603 The Study of New Religious Movements (3)
- REL 604 Indigenous Religions & Decolonial Theories and Methods (3)
- REL 605 Healing in the Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific (3)

Electives

Electives consist of any course in the department (400-level and above, excluding 499). Two complementary graduate courses (3 credits each) from other disciplines may be accepted at the discretion of the thesis advisor and graduate chair. No more than two 400-level courses may be used to satisfy this requirement. **Any courses from outside the department must be approved by the graduate advisor or committee chair.**

Language

Students are required to complete two years of an Asian or Pacific language closely connected to their research. The choice must be approved by the thesis advisor and graduate chair. The grade for the fourth

years of a language appropriate to their field of specialization (e.g., Chinese, Hawaiian, Hindi, Japanese, Sanskrit, Samoan, Tahitian, or another Asian or Polynesian language approved by the area advisor) with a minimum B-minus grade in the fourth semester of class.

This language requirement will be waived for students demonstrating language proficiency by an equivalency exam. These exams will be set by the student's advisor and assessed by two faculty readers (one from the Department of Religion and one from the department in which the language is taught).

Language courses will not count towards the 30 credits required for an MA in religion.

Thesis (REL 700)

A maximum of 3 credits per semester for a total of 6 credits of REL 700, usually taken over two semesters is required. Students must be admitted to candidacy and must complete 12 credits before they can register for REL 700.

Completion of an original thesis, demonstrating a mastery of advanced research, analytic, and discursive skills, is required of all students in Plan A.

Each candidate must form a committee of three members of the graduate faculty, one of whom is from outside the department. Faculty reserve the right not to serve on a thesis committee.

semester of language study must be a B-minus or better.

This language requirement will be waived for students demonstrating language proficiency by an equivalency exam. **An exam** will be set by the student's advisor and assessed by two faculty readers (one from within the department and one from a department in which the language is taught).

Upper-division language courses must be approved by the graduate chair in order to count towards the 30 credits required for an MA in Religion. Students cannot use any language course to satisfy both graduate credit and language requirements.

Plan A (Thesis)

Students choosing Plan A will complete an original thesis, demonstrating a mastery of advanced research, analytic, and discursive skills. Plan A students must complete six units of REL 700 (thesis research). A maximum of 3 credits per semester for a total of 6 credits of REL 700, usually taken over two semesters is required. Students must be admitted to candidacy and must complete 12 credits before they can register for REL 700.

Candidates who accumulate the maximum number of thesis research credit hours but fail to complete the thesis must register for a minimum of 1 credit hour of

After submission of a completed thesis to the committee for its consideration, the candidate must be present for the final oral examination on the subject of the thesis.

After all revisions as determined by the thesis committee have been incorporated and the thesis is in final form, the majority of the committee, including the chairperson, passes the student for the master's degree. A candidate who fails may be re-examined once, provided it is done within one calendar year of the initial examination.

After a candidate has taken 6 credits of 700, the candidate must register for 1 credit of 700 in subsequent semesters and in the semester of graduation.

One bound copy of the approved thesis shall go on file in the department office and must be submitted to the department office at the same time the final thesis is deposited with Graduate Division.

Plan B

The Plan B degree program provides students with a non-thesis opportunity for graduate research and study in Asian or Polynesian religions. Plan B is designed for students who wish to articulate the results of their research in innovative ways using various available technologies. In place of a thesis, the culminating requirement is a Plan B Project, an

thesis research at the beginning of the term in which all requirements for the degree will be completed.

Advancement to Candidacy: Candidacy may be granted after completing 12 credits toward the degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and the completion of the language requirement. Each candidate must form a committee of three members of the graduate faculty, one of whom is from outside the department. Faculty members reserve the right not to serve on a thesis committee.

After submission of a completed thesis to the committee for its consideration, a candidate must undergo an oral examination on the subject of the thesis. Once the final revisions have been submitted, the majority vote of the committee members, including the chairperson, must approve the thesis. A candidate whose thesis does not pass may be re-examined once, provided the thesis passes committee review within one calendar year of the initial examination.

The electronic submission of the thesis is required. Submit a pdf file online via ProQuest ETD. These must be submitted by the specified deadline (see the "Calendar"). One bound copy of the approved thesis is required and shall go on file in the department office.

original research project as described below. 30 credits are required.

Master's Plan B Procedures

1. Preliminary conference with the graduate chair for the purpose of determining an advisor, proposed courses to fulfill the requirements, and the foreign language for the degree.
2. Candidacy for Plan B students requires a memo from the graduate chair indicating that 12 graduate credits, including REL 600, have been taken with a GPA of 3.0 or better and that the student has prepared a preliminary proposal and secured the support of two graduate faculty members from the Department of Religion to serve on their committee. Committee members will have the responsibility of approving, supervising, and evaluating the project as completed in REL 688 (Plan B Research).
3. Completion of a research project demonstrating a critical understanding of religion in a particular area of Asia or the Pacific or of a topic within the overall region. The project should reveal original insights into selected religious phenomena or area of concentration. Students will be expected to present the results of their research in innovative ways that utilize the arts, various media, or developing technologies, and thereby show their relevance to scholarly discourse.

Plan B (Project)

The Plan B degree program provides students with a non-thesis opportunity for graduate research and study in Asian or Pacific religions. Plan B is designed for students who wish to articulate the results of their research in innovative ways using various available technologies. In place of a thesis, the culminating requirement is an original research project (see below).

Master's Plan B Procedures

1. Preliminary conference with the graduate chair for the purpose of determining an advisor, proposed courses to fulfill the requirements, and the foreign language for the degree.
2. Plan B students must complete three units of REL 688 (Plan B research).
3. Candidacy for Plan B students requires a memo from the graduate chair indicating that 12 graduate credits have been taken with a GPA of 3.0 or better and that the student has prepared a preliminary proposal and secured the support of two graduate faculty members from the department to serve on their committee. Committee members will approve, supervise, and evaluate the project as completed in REL 688 (Plan B Research).
4. Completion of a research project demonstrating a critical understanding of religion in a particular area of Asia or the Pacific or of a topic within the

Research projects will be presented in a public forum during the student's final semester.

Required courses (6 credits)

- REL 600 History and Theory of the Study of Religion (3)
- REL 688 Plan B Research

Area requirements (9 credits)

Students must take at least three 600 level courses in a particular region of Asian or in Polynesian religions.

Electives (15 credits)

Electives consist of any religion course (400 level and above, excluding 499), other than those that fulfill program and area requirements. Two complementary graduate courses (3 credits each) from other disciplines may be accepted at the discretion of the advisor and graduate chair. No more than two 400-level courses may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Language

To achieve mastery of a language at the second-year level, students are required to complete two years of a language appropriate to their area of specialization (e.g., Chinese, Hawaiian, Hindi, Japanese, Sanskrit, Samoan, Tahitian, or another Asian or Polynesian language approved by the area advisor) with a minimum B-minus grade in the fourth semester of class.

This language requirement will be waived for students demonstrating language proficiency by an

overall region. The project should reveal original insights into selected religious phenomena or areas of concentration. Students ~~will be expected~~ to present the results of their research in innovative ways that utilize the arts, various media, or developing technologies and thereby show their relevance to scholarly discourse. Research projects will be presented in a public forum during the student's final semester.

equivalency exam. These exams will be set by the student's advisor and assessed by two faculty readers (one from the religion department and one from the department in which the language is taught). Language courses will not count toward the 30 credits required for an MA in religion.



COLLEGE of ARTS, LANGUAGES & LETTERS
DEPARTMENT of RELIGION

November 3, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Lassner
President

VIA: Michael Bruno
Provost *Michael Bruno*

VIA: Laura E. Lyons *Laura E. Lyons*
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

VIA: Julienne Maeda *Julienne Maeda*
Acting Dean, Graduate Division

VIA: Peter Arnade *Peter Arnade*
Dean, College of Arts, Languages and Letters
for Dean Arnade

FROM: Acting Chair Daniel Harris-McCoy *Daniel Harris-McCoy*
Department of Religion

SUBJECT: END STOP-OUT OF ADMISSIONS TO THE MA IN RELIGION (ASIA)

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

We would like to request ending the stop-out in admissions for the graduate MA in Religion (Asia) beginning in Fall 2022.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2022.

ADDITIONAL COST:

NONE.

PURPOSE:

We are requesting an end to the stop-out in admissions for the graduate MA in Religion (Asia) in order to recruit graduate students for the 2022-23 academic year.

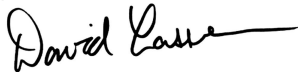
BACKGROUND:

Admission to the MA in Religion (Asia) was stopped out for AY 2021-22 to give Religion faculty time to revise the program (Attachment 1). The goal of these revisions was, above all, to create a curriculum that would reflect the current staffing and expertise of the department. A revised curriculum, including new courses, was duly drafted over the course of the Spring 2021 semester. This program modification (Attachment 2) has since been reviewed and approved by the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters, the Graduate Council, and the Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence. The program has also submitted a concomitant request to the president to rename the MA in Religion (Asia) to “Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific”. (N.B.: In the original stop-out request, the program name for the MA is misstated as “Master of Arts degree in Religion”. The correct name is “Master of Arts in Religion (Asia)” and, as mentioned above, this will change to “Master of Arts in the Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific” once the revisions to the degree and name change are approved.)

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

We would like to recommended ending the stop-out in admissions for the graduate MA in Religion (Asia) beginning in Fall 2022.

~~APPROVED~~ DISAPPROVED:



December 30, 2021

David Lassner
President

Date

Attachment 1: Approved stop-out of admissions to the MA in Religion (Asia).

Attachment 2: Approved program modification for the MA in Religion (Asia).



November 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Lassner
President

VIA: Michael Bruno *Michael Bruno*
Provost

VIA: Laura E. Lyons *Laura E. Lyons*
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

VIA: Krystyna Aune *Krystyna Aune*
Dean, Graduate Division

FROM: Peter Arnade *Peter Arnade*
Dean, College of Arts, Languages & Letters

SUBJECT: STOP-OUT OF ADMISSIONS TO THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE
IN RELIGION

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

We would like to request a stop-out of admissions into the Master of Arts degree in Religion for Fall 2021 through Spring 2022.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon Approval

ADDITIONAL COST:

None

PURPOSE:

To conduct a review and redesign of Master of Arts degree curriculum and program.

BACKGROUND:

EP 5.202 describing the review of established programs allows for a program to request a stop-out of admissions for a set period while the program undergoes a redesign to, among other things, attract greater

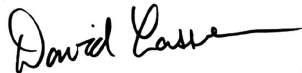
enrollments and improve time to degree. Chancellors are given the authorization to approve admission stop-outs.

As part of the UH Mānoa Planning for Post-Pandemic Hawai‘i, the Provost and his Budget Team addressed issues of concern with the Department of Religion, including its enrollments and its attractiveness for recruitment as a graduate degree. The several proposals discussed that might improve the program would be best initiated under a stop-out of admissions during the current and subsequent academic year. With new curriculum and program initiatives in place, admissions would resume for AY 2022-23.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

We would like to recommend a stop-out of admissions into the Master of Arts degree in Religion for Fall 2021 through Spring 2022.

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:



Digitally signed by David Lassner
Date: 2021.02.21 17:36:41 -10'00'

David Lassner
President


Date



October 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: College of Arts, Languages & Letters Chairs and Directors

FROM: Peter Arnade 
Dean

SUBJECT: Out of Office

I will be out of town beginning Monday, November 1, 2021 and returning on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Associate Dean Gaye Chan will serve on my behalf and have signing authority from November 1 – November 3 and Associate Dean Kimi Kondo-Brown will serve on my behalf and have signing authority from November 4 – 8.

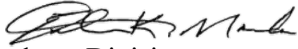
c: David Lassner, President
Michael Bruno, Provost
Gaye Chan, Associate Dean, College of Arts, Languages & Letters
Kimi Kondo-Brown, Associate Dean, College of Arts, Languages & Letters




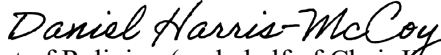
September 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Lyons
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

VIA: Julienne Maeda 
Acting Dean, Graduate Division

VIA: Peter Arnade 
Dean, College of Arts, Languages, and Letters

FROM: Daniel Harris-McCoy 
Acting Chair, Department of Religion (on behalf of Chair Kapali Lyon)

SUBJECT: Request to modify the Master of Arts in Religion (Asia)

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence approve the proposed changes to the MA degree in Religion (Asia) in the Department of Religion.

Note that this request parallels a separate action memo requesting to amend the degree title of the existing MA degree in the Department of Religion from Religion (Asia) to Religion Traditions of Asia and the Pacific.

REQUESTED EFFECTIVE TERM:

Fall 2022.

ADDITIONAL COST:

No additional costs are anticipated.

RATIONALE/PURPOSE OF PROPOSED CHANGE(S):

The MA program in Religion has been—and will continue to be—unique in that it focuses on religions of Asia and the Pacific. In the past, students were required to take REL600 (*The Study of Religion*), three courses in their specific area of research (e.g., India, Japan, China, Hawai'i), and the remaining units from our other graduate offerings and 400-level courses. Courses from outside the department were permitted on a case-by-case basis. With the drop in Humanities enrollments and our decreased faculty size (from nine to six), this model has become increasingly untenable. Many courses in recent years have been under-enrolled, and planning has been difficult because we cannot predict the makeup of our incoming class and are, therefore, unsure which core-areas need to be taught. To maintain this model in the future, we would need to offer many courses that are likely to be under-enrolled, sometimes at the cost of not teaching well-attended undergraduate courses.

Consequently, we propose the changes detailed below to help faculty members offer well-attended courses and better serve our students. As you will see, six required courses will form the basis of the MA degree. Each tenure-track faculty member will teach, on average, only one graduate course over two years unless a faculty member decides to offer an additional course as an overload. While sabbaticals and other demands will require some flexibility, we hope to offer them on the following schedule so that no Religion faculty member will be expected to teach more than one graduate course over a two-year period.

Course	Fall 22	Spring 23	Fall 23	Spring 24
REL 600	✓			
REL 601	✓			
REL 602				✓
REL 603			✓	
REL 604		✓		
REL 605			✓	

This reduction in both the number and kinds of courses offered should eliminate under-enrolled graduate courses since all enrolled graduate students will be required to take each of these six courses. Also, each of these new courses has been designed so that the department can assign them to several different faculty members, even while ensuring that students will carry out the research component of each class under the supervision of an area expert. Even if the department experiences unexpected faculty losses before rehiring resumes, this proposed program can continue to be offered, especially once the planned merger between Religion and Classics is completed (Spring 2022).

We hope that the proposed program changes will be in place for students who want to apply for Fall 2022 admission (a stop-out is in place for AY 2021-2022).

DETAILED LIST OF CHANGE(S):

We propose to eliminate the required area-specific courses and, in their place, offer six courses that all students must take, all dealing with essential topics in the religions of Asia and the Pacific:

- REL 600 - The Study of Religion (existing)
- REL 601 - Sacred Space
- REL 602 - The Study of Religion in Practice
- REL 603 - The Study of New Religious Movements
- REL 604 - Indigenous Religions & Decolonial Theories and Methods
- REL 605 -Healing in the Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific

One of these six required courses is an existing course (REL 600), and all other courses are new courses. Note none of the core courses have any major/department restrictions: any interested graduate student may take them. If the five new courses are approved, we will eliminate four courses (REL 625, 630, 650, and 664) that are unlikely to be offered in the future. While we expect to eliminate other courses in the future, we have not yet arrived at a complete list. We will need the experience of one or more cohorts before we eliminate additional courses. Note that we are submitting the UHM1 forms (REL 601, 602, 603, 604, 605) and UHM2 forms (REL 625, 630, 650, 664) with the present memo. No other graduate courses will be offered unless individual faculty members choose to teach an additional course on an overload basis. We have designed these

new courses so that any member of our graduate faculty can teach them, but in such a way that students will still do area-specific research under the direct guidance of an area expert.

If these five courses are approved, all students in a cohort will take the same six required courses over a two-year period. The remaining required units would come 400-level courses, occasional graduate courses taught as overload, and acceptable courses outside the department. Courses from outside the department have to be approved by the student's faculty advisor. Historically, the department has had a liberal and collaborative attitude in accepting such courses.

Each required course will follow a collaborative writing and research schedule. Students will work directly with an expert in their research area while writing papers and preparing projects, whether or not that expert is the teacher of record for the course. This plan will allow the department to reduce the number of graduate offerings and ensure that students can focus on the Asia-Pacific area and religion of their choice under the direct supervision of an area or subject expert. All members of the department have agreed to implement and collaborate in the following schedule for each required graduate course:

During the research portion of this course (Weeks 8 through 16) students will have the opportunity to work directly with an expert in their research area while writing papers and preparing projects, either the faculty member of record for the course or another professor in the department. This will allow students to complete a paper or project within their chosen area of focus (e.g. Indian Religions, Hawaiian Religion), which nonetheless pertains to the thematic focus of the particular course. Papers will be graded by the faculty of record in consultation with other faculty experts as appropriate. Papers cannot be re-used in subsequent courses. They can, however, form the foundation for later thesis work.

As with all required graduate seminars in the department, this course will adhere to the following agreed-upon research schedule:

- Week 8: Initial topic proposal
- Week 9: Synopsis and preliminary bibliography
- Week 10: Finalized proposal, outline, and suggested advisor
- Week 11: Faculty of record and area-specialist (if any) meet to determine supervision of papers/projects
- Weeks 11-16: Individual faculty members conduct weekly checkpoint meetings with the students they are supervising to guide research, set goals, and monitor progress
- Week 14: First draft due
- Week 16: Final draft due

This collaborative research and writing plan allows the department to eliminate the required core-area courses while at the same time providing students the necessary time and supervision to work in their selected core areas.

In summary, every Religion graduate student will have the opportunity to take each required course over a two-year period. The additional units needed to meet the 30 unit requirement may come from a combination of 400-level Religion undergraduate courses as well as graduate courses taught by our department or other

departments. Only these six courses will be regularly taught by the Religion faculty as part of the regular teaching requirement, although any faculty member might choose to teach additional courses from our catalog on an overload basis.

DETAILED LIST OF CONSULTATION WITH IMPACTED PROGRAMS (if any):

No other programs will be affected

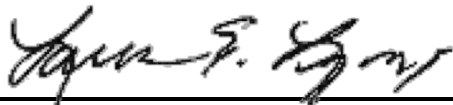
ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommended that the Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence approve the proposed changes to the MA degree in Religion (Asia) in the Department of Religion.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. A summary of catalog changes
2. The current and proposed catalog descriptions

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:



November 30, 2021

Laura Lyons
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

Date

Attachment 1: A summary of the catalog changes for the MA program in Religion

The Department of Religion proposes to add five new required courses to its MA and to change the name of the MA degree to "Religions Traditions of Asia and the Pacific.

Summary of changes

We have taken this opportunity both to make changes and to clarify existing language. Therefore, the changes are summarized here.

1) Arrangement of the catalog description

Information on required courses, electives, and language requirements that apply to both Plan A and Plan B students has been consolidated, clarified, and moved to the beginning.

2) Degree name

Current: Religion (Asian)

Proposed: Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific

3) Required units

No change (30 credits)

4) Required courses

Current: REL 600 (all students)

REL 700 (six credits for Plan A students only)

REL 688 (three credits for Plan B students only)

Proposed: REL 600, 601, 602, 603, 605, 605 (all students) (18 credits)

REL 688/700 - no change (3-6 credits)

5) Electives (6-9 credits)

No substantive change but explanation has been clarified (Up to two 400-level Religion courses; all courses from outside the department require departmental approval)

Language requirement

No substantive change but explanation has been clarified.

5) Candidacy

No change for either Plan A or B

Attachment 2: The current and proposed catalog descriptions

All changes are marked **in red**.

Current Catalog (2021-2022)	Proposed Catalog Description
<p>Graduate Study</p> <p>Master’s Degree</p> <p>The department has developed two graduate program plans leading to the MA degree: a thesis-based MA program (Plan A) and a non-thesis track (Plan B). Both Plans A and B are two-year programs.</p> <p>Admission Requirements</p> <p>Applicants to the MA program in religion must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US college, university, or its equivalent from a recognized foreign institution of higher learning. Applicants should include in the Statement of Objectives an explanation of how their academic background has prepared them for study in the religion MA program.</p> <p>Plan A</p>	<p>Graduate Study</p> <p>Master’s Degree in Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>The department has developed two graduate program plans leading to the MA degree: a thesis-based track (Plan A) and a project-based track (Plan B). Both plans are designed as two-year programs.</p> <p>Admission Requirements</p> <p>Applicants to the MA program in religion must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US college, university, or its equivalent from a recognized foreign institution of higher learning. Applicants should include a statement of objectives and an explanation of how their academic background has prepared them for study in the religion MA program.</p> <p>Required Courses</p> <p>Under both plans, students will have an opportunity to carry out in-depth research in Asian and/or Pacific religions. 30 credits are required (excluding courses</p>

The thesis program provides students with an opportunity for graduate study in Asian or Polynesian religions. 30 credits are required. Advancement to Candidacy: Candidacy may be granted after the first semester after completing 9 graduate credits plus REL 600 with a GPA of 3.0 or better (total 12 credits) and the language requirement.

Required courses (9 credits)

- REL 600 History and Theory of the Study of Religion (3)
- REL 700 Thesis Research (3, 3)

Area requirements (9 credits minimum)

Students must take at least three 600-level courses in their area of specialization (Asian or Polynesian).

Electives

Electives consist of any Religion course (400 level and above, excluding 499), other than those that fulfill program and area requirements. Two complementary graduate courses (3 credits each) from other disciplines may be accepted at the discretion of the thesis advisor and graduate chair. No more than two 400-level courses may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Language

To achieve a mastery of language at the second-year level, students are required to complete two

used to fulfill language requirements), including the following six courses (18 credits):

- REL 600 History and Theory of the Study of Religion (3)
- REL 601 Sacred Space (3)
- REL 602 The Study of the Ways Religion is Practiced (3)
- REL 603 The Study of New Religious Movements (3)
- REL 604 Indigenous Religions & Decolonial Theories and Methods (3)
- REL 605 Healing in the Religious Traditions of Asia and the Pacific (3)

Electives

Electives consist of any course in the department (400-level and above, excluding 499). Two complementary graduate courses (3 credits each) from other disciplines may be accepted at the discretion of the thesis advisor and graduate chair. No more than two 400-level courses may be used to satisfy this requirement. **Any courses from outside the department must be approved by the graduate advisor or committee chair.**

Language

Students are required to complete two years of an Asian or Pacific language closely connected to their research. The choice must be approved by the thesis advisor and graduate chair. The grade for the fourth

years of a language appropriate to their field of specialization (e.g., Chinese, Hawaiian, Hindi, Japanese, Sanskrit, Samoan, Tahitian, or another Asian or Polynesian language approved by the area advisor) with a minimum B-minus grade in the fourth semester of class.

This language requirement will be waived for students demonstrating language proficiency by an equivalency exam. These exams will be set by the student's advisor and assessed by two faculty readers (one from the Department of Religion and one from the department in which the language is taught).

Language courses will not count towards the 30 credits required for an MA in religion.

Thesis (REL 700)

A maximum of 3 credits per semester for a total of 6 credits of REL 700, usually taken over two semesters is required. Students must be admitted to candidacy and must complete 12 credits before they can register for REL 700.

Completion of an original thesis, demonstrating a mastery of advanced research, analytic, and discursive skills, is required of all students in Plan A.

Each candidate must form a committee of three members of the graduate faculty, one of whom is from outside the department. Faculty reserve the right not to serve on a thesis committee.

semester of language study must be a B-minus or better.

This language requirement will be waived for students demonstrating language proficiency by an equivalency exam. **An exam** will be set by the student's advisor and assessed by two faculty readers (one from within the department and one from a department in which the language is taught).

Upper-division language courses must be approved by the graduate chair in order to count towards the 30 credits required for an MA in Religion. Students cannot use any language course to satisfy both graduate credit and language requirements.

Plan A (Thesis)

Students choosing Plan A will complete an original thesis, demonstrating a mastery of advanced research, analytic, and discursive skills. Plan A students must complete six units of REL 700 (thesis research). A maximum of 3 credits per semester for a total of 6 credits of REL 700, usually taken over two semesters is required. Students must be admitted to candidacy and must complete 12 credits before they can register for REL 700.

Candidates who accumulate the maximum number of thesis research credit hours but fail to complete the thesis must register for a minimum of 1 credit hour of

After submission of a completed thesis to the committee for its consideration, the candidate must be present for the final oral examination on the subject of the thesis.

After all revisions as determined by the thesis committee have been incorporated and the thesis is in final form, the majority of the committee, including the chairperson, passes the student for the master's degree. A candidate who fails may be re-examined once, provided it is done within one calendar year of the initial examination.

After a candidate has taken 6 credits of 700, the candidate must register for 1 credit of 700 in subsequent semesters and in the semester of graduation.

One bound copy of the approved thesis shall go on file in the department office and must be submitted to the department office at the same time the final thesis is deposited with Graduate Division.

Plan B

The Plan B degree program provides students with a non-thesis opportunity for graduate research and study in Asian or Polynesian religions. Plan B is designed for students who wish to articulate the results of their research in innovative ways using various available technologies. In place of a thesis, the culminating requirement is a Plan B Project, an

thesis research at the beginning of the term in which all requirements for the degree will be completed.

Advancement to Candidacy: Candidacy may be granted after completing 12 credits toward the degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and the completion of the language requirement. Each candidate must form a committee of three members of the graduate faculty, one of whom is from outside the department. Faculty members reserve the right not to serve on a thesis committee.

After submission of a completed thesis to the committee for its consideration, a candidate must undergo an oral examination on the subject of the thesis. Once the final revisions have been submitted, the majority vote of the committee members, including the chairperson, must approve the thesis. A candidate whose thesis does not pass may be re-examined once, provided the thesis passes committee review within one calendar year of the initial examination.

The electronic submission of the thesis is required. Submit a pdf file online via ProQuest ETD. These must be submitted by the specified deadline (see the "Calendar"). One bound copy of the approved thesis is required and shall go on file in the department office.

original research project as described below. 30 credits are required.

Master's Plan B Procedures

1. Preliminary conference with the graduate chair for the purpose of determining an advisor, proposed courses to fulfill the requirements, and the foreign language for the degree.
2. Candidacy for Plan B students requires a memo from the graduate chair indicating that 12 graduate credits, including REL 600, have been taken with a GPA of 3.0 or better and that the student has prepared a preliminary proposal and secured the support of two graduate faculty members from the Department of Religion to serve on their committee. Committee members will have the responsibility of approving, supervising, and evaluating the project as completed in REL 688 (Plan B Research).
3. Completion of a research project demonstrating a critical understanding of religion in a particular area of Asia or the Pacific or of a topic within the overall region. The project should reveal original insights into selected religious phenomena or area of concentration. Students will be expected to present the results of their research in innovative ways that utilize the arts, various media, or developing technologies, and thereby show their relevance to scholarly discourse.

Plan B (Project)

The Plan B degree program provides students with a non-thesis opportunity for graduate research and study in Asian or Pacific religions. Plan B is designed for students who wish to articulate the results of their research in innovative ways using various available technologies. In place of a thesis, the culminating requirement is an original research project (see below).

Master's Plan B Procedures

1. Preliminary conference with the graduate chair for the purpose of determining an advisor, proposed courses to fulfill the requirements, and the foreign language for the degree.
2. Plan B students must complete three units of REL 688 (Plan B research).
3. Candidacy for Plan B students requires a memo from the graduate chair indicating that 12 graduate credits have been taken with a GPA of 3.0 or better and that the student has prepared a preliminary proposal and secured the support of two graduate faculty members from the department to serve on their committee. Committee members will approve, supervise, and evaluate the project as completed in REL 688 (Plan B Research).
4. Completion of a research project demonstrating a critical understanding of religion in a particular area of Asia or the Pacific or of a topic within the

Research projects will be presented in a public forum during the student's final semester.

Required courses (6 credits)

- REL 600 History and Theory of the Study of Religion (3)
- REL 688 Plan B Research

Area requirements (9 credits)

Students must take at least three 600 level courses in a particular region of Asian or in Polynesian religions.

Electives (15 credits)

Electives consist of any religion course (400 level and above, excluding 499), other than those that fulfill program and area requirements. Two complementary graduate courses (3 credits each) from other disciplines may be accepted at the discretion of the advisor and graduate chair. No more than two 400-level courses may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Language

To achieve mastery of a language at the second-year level, students are required to complete two years of a language appropriate to their area of specialization (e.g., Chinese, Hawaiian, Hindi, Japanese, Sanskrit, Samoan, Tahitian, or another Asian or Polynesian language approved by the area advisor) with a minimum B-minus grade in the fourth semester of class.

This language requirement will be waived for students demonstrating language proficiency by an

overall region. The project should reveal original insights into selected religious phenomena or areas of concentration. Students ~~will be expected~~ to present the results of their research in innovative ways that utilize the arts, various media, or developing technologies and thereby show their relevance to scholarly discourse. Research projects will be presented in a public forum during the student's final semester.

equivalency exam. These exams will be set by the student's advisor and assessed by two faculty readers (one from the religion department and one from the department in which the language is taught). Language courses will not count toward the 30 credits required for an MA in religion.