



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

# Course Change Proposal Form A



<b>Academic Group (College):</b> Arts and Letters	<b>Academic Organization (Department):</b> Humanities and Religious Studies	<b>Date:</b> April 15, 2008
<b>Type of Course Proposal:</b> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Department Chair:</b> Jackie Donath	<b>Submitted by:</b> Brad Nystrom
<b>Does this course fulfill a requirement for single-subject or multiple subject credential students?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For Catalog Copy:</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>CCE (Extension):</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Semester Effective:</b> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> , 2009 <input type="checkbox"/>

This course replaces experimental course Subject Area (prefix) and Catalog Nbr (course number):

**Change from:**

<b>Subject Area (prefix) &amp; Catalog Nbr (course no.):</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Units:</b>
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**Change to:**

<b>Subject Area (prefix) &amp; Catalog Nbr (course no.):</b> HRS 142	<b>Title:</b> Introduction to Christianity	<b>Units:</b> 3
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**JUSTIFICATION:**

HRS 142 is intended to mirror and expand the department/s course offerings in the department's 140 series (HRS 141: Introduction to Judaism, HRS 143: The Holocaust, HRS 144: Introduction to Islam, HRS 145: Introduction to Islamic Cultures, and HRS 148: Arts and Cultures of Africa). The proposed course will also expand the department's treatment of this important tradition. Currently, HRS 122: The New Testament provides a text based look at Christianity and the HRS/HIST 126/127 sequence is strictly historical. HRS 142 takes a culture-and practice-approach to the subject.

**NEW COURSE DESCRIPTION:** (Not to exceed 80 words, and language should conform to catalog copy. See <http://www.csus.edu/acaf/univmanual/crspsl.htm> - Guidelines for Catalog Course Description)

A study of the beliefs, practices, institutions and history of the Christian religion. Emphasis on the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant traditions and the relationship of Christianity to global cultures.	
Note: none	
<b>Prerequisite:</b> Enforced at Registration: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Corequisite:</b> Enforced at Registration: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CAN (California Articulation Number):	
<b>Graded:</b> Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit/No Credit <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Instructor Approval Required?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Course Classification (e.g., lecture, lab, seminar, discussion):</b> C2/lecture	<b>Title for CMS (not more than 30 characters)</b> Intro to Christianity
<b>Cross Listed?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, do they meet together and fulfill the same requirement, and what is the other course.
<b>How Many Times Can This Course be Taken for Credit?</b> <u>one</u>	
Can the course be taken for Credit more than once during the same term? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



HRS 142  
"INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY"  
DR. NYSTROM  
G.E. CATEGORY C1  
MEETING DAYS/TIMES  
ROOM \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE TITLE:** "Introduction to Christianity"

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A study of the beliefs, practices, institutions, and history of the Christian religion. Emphasis on the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant traditions and the relationship of Christianity to global cultures.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Students who successfully complete this course will be able to identify the major events and themes in the history of Christianity; describe essential Christian beliefs, practices, and institutions; explain the contributions of women and the peoples of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas to the Christian tradition; and explain how Christianity has both influenced and been influenced by the various civilizations within which it has developed.

**OUR APPROACH:** As an academic course in a public university, this introduction to Christianity will take an objective approach to describing, analyzing, and understanding Christianity as a form of cultural expression. We will not endorse, defend, or criticize Christianity, and we will refrain from making judgements about matters that lie beyond the scope of academic investigation (e.g., the existence of God, the validity of Christian beliefs). Students should be prepared to consider our subject from a variety of perspectives and to express themselves thoughtfully and respectfully in class discussions and written assignments.

**TEXTS:**

Alister McGrath, *Christianity: An Introduction* (Blackwell, 2006)  
Mark Noll, *The Work We Have to Do: A History of Protestants in America* (Oxford, 2002)  
*Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005)  
Timothy (Kallistos) Ware, *The Orthodox Church* (Penguin, 1997)  
The New Testament

Alister McGrath is professor of historical theology at Oxford, where his scholarship focuses on the history of Christian thought and the dialogue of Christianity and culture. Mark Noll is professor of American religious history at the University of Notre Dame. The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is a summary of the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. Timothy (Kallistos) Ware is emeritus professor of Eastern Orthodox Studies at Oxford. A British convert to Orthodoxy, he became an Orthodox bishop (titular metropolitan of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Great Britain) in 1982.

## GRADES:

Course grades will be based on the Midterm Exam, Final Exam, and Readings Responses. The Midterm is a two-day exam in which a multiple-choice section (50 points) covering basic information will be given on the first day and an essay section (50 points) on specific themes and issues will be given on the second day. The Final Exam will be structured in the same way as the Midterm and with corresponding point values. The four Readings Responses (25 points each) are 30-minute, in-class opportunities to demonstrate your understanding of assigned readings in short-essay responses to 2-3 questions.

Grades will be based on the percentage you earn of the 275 points possible in the course:

A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	78-79%	F	below 60%

Participation in class discussions may raise your course grade by one-half (e.g., from a B to a B+). Repeated disruptions of lectures and class discussions (e.g., talking, ringing cell phones, web surfing) may result in the reduction of your course grade by one-half.

Students who miss more than six class meetings will be penalized one-half grade (e.g., B to B-) on their course grades.

Please do not tell me at any point during the semester what grade you might need, whether to get into graduate school, keep your financial aid, avoid academic probation, or for any other purpose.

## MAKE-UP POLICY:

Do not take this course if you anticipate being absent for any reason on the dates of the Midterm and Final Examinations. A make-up for the Midterm is possible only if you can provide a compelling reason supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., a letter, on letterhead, in which your physician explains that you were unable to attend class on the day in question). Your required attendance at a wedding, family vacation, dental appointment, or similar event is not a compelling reason. There will be no make-up Finals. There are no make-ups for Readings Responses; however, there is no penalty for missing one since only the three highest scores will count in the calculation of your course grade.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

Week 1: Introduction  
Jesus  
Biblical and extra-biblical sources for Jesus  
The life and teachings of Jesus  
Jesus and women, the poor, the sick, Jews, and gentiles  
(McGrath, chapter 1)

- Week 2: The Bible and its place in Christianity  
What is the Bible?  
Old Testament/New Testament  
Genres of biblical literature  
Origins of the biblical texts  
Translations of the Bible  
Hermeneutics: Theories of biblical interpretation  
(McGrath, chapters 2-4)
- Week 3: History of Christianity: The ancient world  
Growth of the Christian movement  
Women, slaves, Jews, and gentiles in the ancient church  
Formation of ecclesiastical government  
Formation of a scriptural canon  
The encounter of Christianity with Greco-Roman culture  
Christianity and the Roman State  
Early theological controversies and church councils  
Greek philosophy in the formulation of Christian theology  
(McGrath, chapter 7, pp. 171-192; Ware, chapters 1 and 2)
- Week 4: History of Christianity: The Middle Ages  
Christianity and the formation of Byzantine culture  
Christianity and the formation of medieval culture in the West  
The "Great Schism" of 1054  
The Crusades and the encounter of Christian West and Islamic East  
Monasticism  
Medieval Christian attitudes towards women, Muslims, and Jews  
Aristotle, Islamic philosophy, and Christian scholasticism  
(McGrath, chapter 7, pp. 192-206)
- Week 5: History of Christianity: The Age of Reformation  
Protestant reformations: Lutheran, Calvinist, Anabaptist  
The Catholic Reformation  
The Reformation in England  
Puritanism  
Pietism  
Christianity in the Americas  
Christianity in the Islamic world  
Christianity in Russia  
The "Great Awakening"  
Wars of religion and their impact on Europe and the Americas  
(McGrath, chapter 7, pp. 206-229; Ware, chapters 5 and 6)

- Week 6: History of Christianity: The Modern Era  
 Modern challenges to religion: science, liberalism, and secularism  
 Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant responses to modern culture  
 Christian missions and Western colonialism in Africa and Asia  
 The Christian churches and Nazi Germany  
 Orthodox Christianity in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China  
 (McGrath, chapter 7, pp. 229-250; Ware, chapter 8)
- Week 7: American Christianities  
 Christianity in American history: General trends  
 African-American churches  
 New churches (Adventists, Latter-Day Saints)  
 The Orthodox experience  
 The Roman Catholic experience  
 The Protestant experience  
 (Noll, entire)
- Week 8: Midterm
- Week 9: Basic Christian Beliefs  
 The cultural backgrounds to Christian belief  
 God and the Trinity  
 Creation  
 Humanity  
 Sin and the problem of evil  
 Grace  
 Jesus as Christ  
 Salvation  
 The church  
 The sacraments  
 Heaven and hell  
 Other religions  
 (McGrath, chapters 5-6; Compendium, pp. 5-59; Ware, chapters 10-12)
- Week 10: Christian Beliefs (continued)
- Week 11: Christian Practices  
 Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant patterns of worship  
 Sacraments  
 Prayer  
 Preaching  
 Holidays and the liturgical year  
 Pilgrimage  
 Monasticism  
 (McGrath, chapter 9, pp. 289-314. 342-344; Ware, chapters 13-15;  
 Compendium, pp. 65-100 and 157-175)

- Week 12: Christian Practices (continued)
- Week 13: The Arts in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Traditions  
 Church architecture  
 Icons  
 Music  
 Sculpture  
 Painting  
 Literature  
 (McGrath, chapter 9, pp. 314-342)
- Week 14: The Arts in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Traditions (cont.)  
 Christianity Today and Tomorrow:  
 The geography of Christianity  
 The demography of Christianity  
 Demographic trends and trajectories  
 Pressing issues: social justice, feminism, homosexuality, and others  
 (McGrath, chapter 8)
- Week 15: Christianity Today and Tomorrow (cont.)

#### **SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND EXAMS**

- Week 3: READINGS RESPONSE #1 (25 points) on the Gospel of John and Letter to the Romans (New Testament), McGrath, chapters 1-4.
- Week 8: READINGS RESPONSE #2 (25 points) on McGrath, chapter 7; Ware, chapters 1-2, 5-6, 8; Noll, entire book)
- Week 8: MIDTERM (50 points multiple choice, 50 points essay) on all lectures and readings assigned thus far.
- Week 13: READINGS RESPONSE #3 (25 points) on McGrath, chapters 5-6, and 9, pp. 289-314, 342-344; Compendium, pp. 5-59, 65-100, 157-175; and Ware, chapters 10-15.
- Week 15: READINGS RESPONSE #4 (25 points) on McGrath, chapter 9, pp. 314-342.  
 (last day)
- Finals Week: FINAL EXAM (50 points multiple-choice, 50 points essay). The multiple choice of the exam will be based exclusively on lectures and readings assigned since the Midterm. The essay portion of the exam will be based on all lectures and readings for the course.

**GE WRITING REQUIREMENT:**

General Education Area C1 requirements include a minimum of 1500 words of formal writing. It is expected that this standard will be met on the essay portions of the Midterm and Final Examinations and on the Readings Responses.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. See the campus policy on academic dishonesty at <http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual/UMA00150.htm>.

Students with disabilities should inform me as soon as possible about special arrangements they might require.

No electronic equipment may be used during class.

Students who leave the classroom during exams will not be allowed to return. If this policy represents a documentable hardship for you, you may make appropriate arrangements with the Testing Center.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Office: 2024 Mendocino Hall.  
Telephone: 278-5334

E-mail: [nystromb@csus.edu](mailto:nystromb@csus.edu)  
Office Hours:

# College of Arts and Letters Curriculum Committee

## CHECK-OFF LIST FOR COURSE APPROVAL

Name of Department/Humanities and Religious Studies Effective Date/Spring 2009

Proposed Course Number 142 Course Name/ Introduction to Christianity

Contact Person (Instructor)/ Bradley Nystrom Email/ nystromb@csus.edu Phone/ 278.5334

Projected Enrollment 40-50 Units of Credit 3

Has the course been offered before? no If yes, under what number?

Suggested Course Classification C2 discussion Unit distribution: lecture/ X lab  activity

### List the prerequisite(s) for the proposed course.

none

### For which students or programs is the course designated

X/ Majors in the department

X/ Minors in the department

Majors of other departments (e.g., *An A&L course designed for Business Administration majors*)

X/ General Service

Other (specify)

If approved by the A & L Curriculum Committee, will this course be submitted for consideration in the General Education Program? X/Yes No

### Method of Presentation:

X/Lecture  Lecture/Activity  Lecture/Discussion  Lecture/Laboratory

Activity  Laboratory  Seminar  Films and/or other visuals

Performance  other (specify)

If different amounts of credit will be available for the proposed course, indicate differences in course requirements for earning the units.

NA

If the course can be taken more than one time for credit, what is the justification for the repetition? How will the two (or more) experiences differ?

NA

What courses currently offered in Arts and Letters or other colleges/departments most closely resemble the proposed course? Please *list* these other courses and justify why the proposed course will not duplicate them. Not all approved courses are shown in the current catalog so please consult

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faculty/chair in other schools/departments where duplication might occur. Please list persons you consulted.

1. None

3.

2.

4.

**Can the course be implemented within the existing departmental allocation? Yes**

If the proposed course will require an expenditure of \$100 or more, append a breakdown of expenditure and source of funding.

yes

**If this is a new course, how will it be integrated into your present allocation?**

1. Will you be giving up another course to make room for the proposed course?

No, HRS 142 will supplement courses in the HRS 140 series and HRS/HIST 126 and HRS/HIST 127

2. What course(s) could you alternate in the schedule with the proposed course?

HRS 122: New Testament

3. How often would you schedule the proposed course?

One a year (depending on demand)

4. What full-time faculty can teach the course? What other course would they give up in order to teach it?

Dr. Nystrom is our only full-time faculty member with expertise in the field.

5. Realistically, what fiscal impact might the proposed course have? (*e.g., operating expense, faculty cost, staff cost, student assistants, equipment, etc.*)

none

**List the objectives/goals/expected learning outcomes.**

Students will be able to:

- Identify the major events and themes in the history of Christianity
- Describe essential Christian beliefs, practices, and institutions
- Explain contributions of women and peoples of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas to the Christian tradition
- Explain how Christianity has both influenced and been influenced by the various civilizations within which it has developed

**What student assessment tools will be used?** (*e.g., exams, papers, portfolios.*)

Midterm and final exams and four reading responses.

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***In addition to filling out the Check-Off List form, please submit a course syllabus containing the following information:***

- I. Course Content and Objectives  
(Brief discursive overview of major topics and goals)
- II. Required Texts  
(*e.g., textbooks, class handouts, journals, newspapers, web pages, videos, etc.*)
- III. Course Format  
(*e.g., lecture, lecture-discussion, seminar, composition, activities, studio, etc.*)
- IV. Course Requirements
  - A. Class Participation
  - B. Examinations
  - C. Research Paper or Term Project or Short Papers, etc.
  - D. Attendance
  - E. Other Policies
- V. Student Evaluation: How are the requirements in IV weighted in determining the course grade?  
(*e.g., attendance 10%, midterm 23%, etc.*)
- VI. Semester Outline  
(Course topics ordered weekly)