



ALS

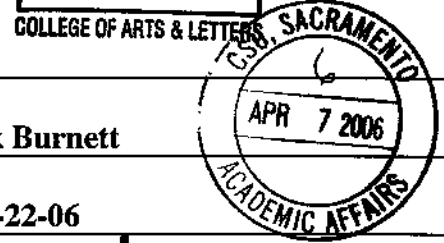
# Academic Affairs - Course Proposal

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

DEAN'S OFFICE

MAR 24 2006

Form A



<b>Academic Unit:</b> Communication Studies Department		<b>Department Chair:</b> Nick Burnett	
<b>Type of Course Proposal:</b> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Date:</b> 3-22-06	
<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:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Semester Effective:</b> Fall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> 2007			
<b>Prefix &amp; No.</b> ComS 196A	<b>Title:</b> Religious Communication	<b>Units:</b> 3	

<b>Change to:</b>		
<b>Prefix &amp; No.</b> ComS 165	<b>Title:</b> Communication and Religion	<b>Units:</b> 3

### JUSTIFICATION:

Changing experimental course to a regular offering. Course name and description changed slightly.

This course offers Communication Studies majors and minors a significant new area in which to sharpen and develop their skills in critical thought and message analysis. Religious expression, reflection, and experience play a dramatic role in the lives and politics of our region and nation. By offering this course, we provide students the tools to approach public discourse about religion – and by religious believers – with both a critical understanding of that discourse, and a respect for diverse outlooks. No other course in the university curriculum explores this intersection of religion and discourse. This course has been offered experimentally within the COMS rotation for the past two years, and we are confident of its viability.

### 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

Examines the history, development and present state of religious communication. Discussion of the limits and challenges communication theories face when confronted with situations requiring them to describe the indescribable. Emphasis upon the communication methods in a religious context as well as the communication strategies, limits, and possibilities that are revealed in what is arguably the most extreme of communication situations: the intersection of religion and words.

**Note:**

**Prerequisite:**

**Corequisite:**

**CAN (California Articulation Number):**

**Graded:** Letter  Credit/No Credit

**Instructor Approval?** Yes  No

**Course Classification:**

C3

**Title for SIS+ (not more than 25 characters)**  
Communication + Religion

**Cross Listed?**

Yes  No

**If yes, with what course:**

**How Many Times Can This Course be Taken for Credit?**

Once

ALS

# FOR NEW COURSE PROPOSALS OR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES ONLY:

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes:** Describe outcomes using the following format: "Students will be able to: 1), 2), etc." See the example at <http://www.csus.edu/acaf/example.htm>

Students will:

1. Describe the background and context necessary for better understanding the relationship of the contemporary Church-State debate in America.
2. Demonstrate skill in using the vocabulary, resources, theories, and methods of communication research to discuss religious issues critically.
3. Describe the nature of religious conviction *as a communication event*, rooted in and dependant on the human use of symbols.
4. Deduce whether (and if so, *how*) religious communication differs from political, cultural, or interpersonal communication events.
5. Illustrate your ability to develop reasoned arguments about abstract ideas.
6. Illustrate your ability to read and discuss complex intellectual writings.
7. Distinguish "rhetorical reasoning" from scientific, mathematical, and theological reasoning.
8. Recognize fair and reasonable communication questions that can be raised about religious communication and religious communicators.
9. Explore and evaluate your own position regarding the relationship (if any) between truth (or truths) and communication events.

\*\*Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities [Note: it is understood that these are updated and modified as needed by the instructor(s).] This attachment should be forwarded only to your Dean's office, not Academic Affairs.

**Assessment Strategies:** A description of the assessment strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre- and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers) which will be used by the instructor to determine the extent to which students have achieved the learning outcomes noted above:

1. Weekly papers responding to the assigned readings.
2. Two Exams: One in-class and one take-home, the latter resulting in a 5-7 page paper.
3. The development of a relevant technical vocabulary regarding means of engaging religious communication critically.
4. A comprehensive Final Exam.

## For whom is this course being developed?

Majors in the Dept X Majors of other Depts \_\_\_ Minors in the Dept X General Education \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate)? Yes \_\_\_ No X

If yes, identify program(s):

Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer facilities, faculty, etc.)? Yes \_\_\_ No X

If yes, attach a description of resources needed and verify that resources are available.

Indicate which department or programs will be affected by the proposed course (if any). \_\_\_\_\_

*The Department Chair's signature below indicates that affected programs have been sent a copy of this proposal form.*

**Approvals:** If proposed change, new course or deletion is approved, sign and date below. If not approved, forward without signing to the next reviewing authority, and attach an explanatory memorandum to the original copy.

Signatures:

	Date
Department Chair: <i>Nicholas T. Burnett</i>	3/22/06
College Dean or Associate Dean: <i>Nancy M. Jahn</i>	4-6-06
CPSP (for school personnel courses ONLY)	
Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Programs	

Distribution: Academic Affairs (original), Department Chair and College Dean. Dean's office to send original after approval to Jerri McAtee, at zip 6016. An electronic copy must also be sent to [mcaateeji@csus.edu](mailto:mcaateeji@csus.edu).