### Course Change Proposal Form A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Group (College):</th>
<th>Academic Organization (Department):</th>
<th>Date: April 15, 2008</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Letters</td>
<td>Humanities and Religious Studies</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Course Proposal:</th>
<th>Department Chair:</th>
<th>Submitted by:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New X Change Deletion</td>
<td>Jackie Donath</td>
<td>Brad Nystrom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does this course fulfill a requirement for single-subject or multiple subject credential students?</th>
<th>For Catalog Copy:</th>
<th>CCE (Extension):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes X No _</td>
<td>Yes X No _</td>
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<tr>
<th>Semester Effective:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall ___ Spring _ X_, 2009</td>
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This course replaces experimental course Subject Area (prefix) and Catalog Nbr (course number):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change from:</th>
<th>Units:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Area (prefix) &amp; Catalog Nbr (course no.):</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Change to:</th>
<th>Units:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Area (prefix) &amp; Catalog Nbr (course no.):</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HRS 142</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Christianity</td>
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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:
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.

<table>
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<th>Note: none</th>
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<tr>
<th>Prerequisite:</th>
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<td>Enforced at Registration: Yes _ No X</td>
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<th>Corequisite:</th>
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<td>Enforced at Registration: Yes _ No X</td>
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<th>CAN (California Articulation Number):</th>
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<tr>
<th>Graded:</th>
<th>Instructor Approval Required?</th>
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<td>Letter X Credit/No Credit</td>
<td>Yes _ No X</td>
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<tr>
<th>Course Classification (e.g., lecture, lab, seminar, discussion):</th>
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<td>Title for CMS (not more than 30 characters)</td>
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<th>Cross Listed?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes _ No X</td>
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<th>If yes, do they meet together and fulfill the same requirement, and what is the other course.</th>
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<tr>
<th>How Many Times Can This Course be Taken for Credit?</th>
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<td>_one _</td>
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<th>Can the course be taken for Credit more than once during the same term?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes _ No X</td>
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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 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

**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:

- Midterm and final exams
- Four reading responses

☐ ☐

For whom is this course being developed?

- Majors in the Dept. ☐
- Majors of other Depts. ☐
- Minors in the Dept. ☐
- General Education ☐
- Other ☐

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

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 ☐

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). ☐ none ☐

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: | 4/15/08 |
| College Dean or Associate Dean: | 4/16/08 |
| 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 Academic Affairs, at mail zip 6016. An electronic copy must also be sent.

8/27/07
HRS 142
“INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY”
DR. NYSTROM
G.E. CATEGORY C1
MEETING DAYS/TIMES
ROOM _____

COURSE TITLE: “Introduction to Christianity”


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)
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
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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
Modem 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 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/umanual/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. E-mail: nystromb@csus.edu
Telephone: 278-5334 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

May 7, 2007
faculty/chair in other schools/departments where duplication might occur. Please list persons you consulted.

1. None

2. 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.

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

May 7, 2007
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)

May 7, 2007