Course Change Proposal
Form A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Group (College):</th>
<th>Academic Organization (Department):</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Letters</td>
<td>Humanities and Religious Studies</td>
<td>February 14, 2011</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Course Proposal:</th>
<th>Department Chair:</th>
<th>Submitted by:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New _ Change _ Deletion _</td>
<td>Jeffrey Brodd</td>
<td>Jeffrey Brodd</td>
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<tr>
<th>Does this course fulfill a requirement for single-subject or multiple subject credential students?</th>
<th>For Catalog Copy:</th>
<th>Semester Effective:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes _ No _</td>
<td>Yes _ No _</td>
<td>Fall _ Spring _ 2011</td>
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This course replaces experimental course Subject Area (prefix) and Catalog Nbr (course number):

If changing an existing course, should new version be considered a repeat of the original version? If so, the same Course ID will be maintained. If not, a new Course ID will be assigned. Note: In PeopleSoft terminology, the Course ID is the unique system identifier, not the Catalog Nbr.

True False

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area (prefix) &amp; Catalog Nbr (course no.):</th>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Units:</th>
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<tr>
<td>HRS 190</td>
<td>Topics in Humanities and Religious Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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JUSTIFICATION:

- The department is reconfiguring its curriculum and will use HRS 190 as a majors’ seminar course rather than as a capstone class. The capstone seminar will consist of the new HRS 195 (for HUM Concentration) and HRS 198 (for RS Concentration). This change is in response to assessment findings and the most recent HRS program review—which suggest that students need classes which offer opportunities to build content knowledge and develop skills in concentration’s methods and approaches (which are introduced in General Education and core courses in the major) in focused seminar settings.

- The graduate version of the course (HRS 290) is a concurrent offering for HIST/HUM and LIBA Master’s degree students.

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

Seminar for Humanities and Religious Studies majors; focuses on the perspectives and methods of the academic study of religion and of the humanities. Topics chosen by the instructor. Prerequisite: Completion of 9 units of HRS lower division core courses and eligibility for WI classes based on WJP placement score or passage of the appropriate prerequisite. May be repeated. 3 units.

Note:

Prerequisite:
Enforced at Registration: Yes _ X _ major/minor code No

Corequisite:
Enforced at Registration: Yes _ No _

Graded: Letter Credit/No Credit _

Instructor Approval Required? Yes _ No _

Course Classification (e.g., lecture, lab, seminar, discussion):
C-S seminar

Title for CMS (not more than 30 characters)
Seminar in Humanities and Religious Studies

Cross Listed?
Yes _ X _ No _

If yes, do they meet together and fulfill the same requirement, and what is the other course.
Cross listed with HRS 290—while they meet together, HRS 290 has graduate level performance expectations.

How Many Times Can This Course be Taken for Credit? _ twice, if on different topics _

Can the course be taken for Credit more than once during the same term? Yes _ No _—unless two different topics _
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

Specific courses proposed using this number will meet the department's learning goals----
Students will be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of human cultures, their values and forms of expression;
- Demonstrate analytical reading, critical thinking skills and effective communication skills (both written and oral) of a variety of texts;
- Appreciate the importance of life-long learning;
- Demonstrate an ability to undertake synthetic and cross-disciplinary study and learning

**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:

Guided study and discussion of topics in Humanities and Religious studies.
Supplemental presentations, reports and term projects/papers as required by instructor.

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 X No

If yes, identify program(s): Humanities and Religious Studies

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Chair:</th>
<th>2/14/11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Dean or Associate Dean: Nicholas T. Cunnell</td>
<td>3/8/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPSP (for school personnel courses ONLY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Programs</td>
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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.

9/10/2008
California State University, Sacramento  
Topics in the Humanities and Religious Studies: Death and Afterlife  
Spring 2012

Humanities and Religious Studies 190-01  
Mendocino 1024  
Tuesday 6:00-8:50

Professor Jeffrey Brodd. Email: jbrodd@csus.edu  
Office: Mendocino 2011. 278-7703. Hours:  

Seminar for Humanities and Religious Studies majors; focuses on the perspectives and methods of the academic study of religion and of the humanities. Topics chosen by the instructor. Prerequisite: Completion of 9 units of HRS lower division core courses and eligibility for WI classes based on WPJ placement score or passage of the appropriate prerequisite. May be repeated. 3 units. The topic this term is death and afterlife in cross-cultural and historical perspective. Our study will incorporate consideration of relevant art, architecture, history, literature, philosophy, music, and religion. The course will employ a modified seminar format, emphasizing analysis of primary and secondary material mainly by way of discussion. Class sessions will incorporate a variety of sources in addition to the literature, including presentations of art and architecture, music, and film.

Learning Objectives

The course is designed to provide an advanced seminar experience for Humanities and Religious Studies majors, and thus will incorporate the primary learning objectives of the program:
- Demonstrate knowledge of human cultures, their values and forms of expression;
- Demonstrate analytical reading, critical thinking skills and effective communication skills (both written and oral) of a variety of texts;
- Appreciate the importance of life-long learning;
- Demonstrate an ability to undertake synthetic and cross-disciplinary study and learning

Texts

The Bible (any translation)  
*The Egyptian Book of the Dead* (trans. Faulkner)  
Carol Zaleski, *Otherworld Journeys: Accounts of Near-Death Experience in Medieval and Modern Times*  
Alice Beck Kehoe, *The Ghost Dance: Ethnohistory and Revitalization*  
Philippe Ariès, *Western Attitudes toward Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present* (trans. Ranum)  
Course Reader, with various excerpts from other selected texts  
(Various brief readings and charts provided by instructor during the course of the semester)

Requirements and Grading

Each student will write a term paper (of approximately 15 pages) requiring substantial research and analysis. Students will also be required to complete a midterm (in-class) exam and a final (take-home) exam. Especially due to our modified seminar format, active participation in class is expected. All reading assignments are to be completed prior to the meetings for which they are listed (see “Schedule and Assignments”). Attendance is required, as per departmental attendance policy. Course grades will be based on the following:

- Quality of engagement in class sessions: 10%
Midterm exam 25%
Final exam 25%
Term paper (and review of another’s draft) 40%

Schedule and Assignments (reading assignments are underlined)

Week 1  **Introductions**
Approaches to death and afterlife. Greek and Roman attitudes toward death and afterlife.
Plato’s “Myth of Er” and Vergil’s *Aeneid,* Bk. VI (both in Reader); an online alternative version of Bk. VI is at: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?lookup=Verg.+A.+6.1

Weeks 2-4  **Mythologies of death and afterlife**
Greek and Roman attitudes toward death and afterlife (cont.). Biblical attitudes toward death and afterlife. Psalms 88 and 116; Ezekiel 37.1-14; Daniel 12; 1 Thessalonians 4; Matthew 24-25; Revelation 20-21
Introduction to Ancient Egypt. *The Egyptian Book of the Dead,* pp. 13-18, 139-154
Envisioning the Egyptian afterlife. *The Egyptian Book of the Dead,* Plates 1-10, 27, 29-31, 34-37, and accompanying commentary on pp. 154-170

Weeks 5-7  **Experiential perspectives: European Middle Ages and the Modern West**
The medieval otherworld journey narrative. Carol Zaleski, *Otherworld Journeys,* Parts I and II
The modern near-death experience narrative. Zaleski, *Parts III and IV*
**Due:** Initial statement of paper topic(s)

Weeks 8-9  **Experiential perspectives: Tibetan Buddhism**
Interpretation and application of the *Bardo thos grol.* *The Tibetan Book of the Dead,* pp. 96-199
**Due:** Final statement of paper topic and preliminary bibliography
**Midterm exam**

Weeks 10-11  **Experiential perspectives: Native American Ghost Dance Religion**
Introduction to Native American cultural history

Weeks 12-14  **Perspectives and attitudes of the living**
Death in medieval and early-modern Western culture. Philippe Ariès, *Western Attitudes toward Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present*
**Due:** First draft of term paper
Death and modern consciousness. Film (in class): *The Seventh Seal*

**Assigned:** Take-home final exam

Week 15  **Summary and reflections: death and afterlife in comparative perspective**
**Due:** Final draft of term paper and first draft with colleague’s review
**Final exam:** Due by scheduled time for final exam