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From: Gary Shepherd <shepherd@oakland.edu>

Subject: Proposal for Creating Minors within the Religious Studies
Concentration

Cc: shepherd@oakland.edu

Dear CAS Chairs:

I am currently serving as the coordinator for the Concentration in Religious Studies. Each of you (with the exception of Michele, Political Science) chairs a department that contributes cross-listed courses to the concentration.

A potential opportunity to raise significant external funding to support and broaden the concentration has emerged during this past year. Broadening the concentration would consist primarily of creating three new minors, each minor focusing on academic course work relevant for a particular religious tradition, namely: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. A number of courses (some of which now contribute to the concentration) exist at Oakland in the different departments you represent that would fit within these proposed minors, particularly Islam and Christianity. Other courses relevant to these religious traditions could be developed, given current faculty interest and expertise. (There remain additional courses, mainly in Judaic studies, that would require hiring a new faculty person to teach; the bulk of the donor funding being sought would apply to this purpose.)

The purpose of my informing you of these prospects is to inquire of your willingness to render support in the following ways: (1) To allow cross-listing of courses already listed in your curriculum that would be appropriate for one or more of the proposed minors; and (2) to allow, when feasible, members of your faculty to develop new courses in your discipline that would simultaneously be relevant for one or more of the proposed minors. (If our proposal for the new minors succeeds in obtaining the desired external funding from donor contributions, we would be able to subsidize the occasional offering of a new religious studies minor course.)

Immediately below I am summarizing (1) those courses in each of your departments that are currently cross-listed with religious studies courses, (2) those courses you offer that are not currently cross-listed but which we would like to have cross-listed, and then (3) tentative names of suggested new courses that might be developed in your department over the next several years.

To give you a more detailed picture of the larger framework within which my request to you is based, I am also attaching below a copy of the actual proposal for creating religious minors that COI is now reviewing.

When you can, please let me know your disposition concerning the courses we would like to cross-list with religious studies (3rd column below) and your thoughts on the potential for developing (assuming funded support) and cross-listing the suggested new courses in the last column above.

Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Gary Shepherd

Coordinator, Religious Studies Concentration

SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND POTENTIAL CROSS-LISTED COURSES IN
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

<u>Department</u>	<u>Existing Cross-Listed Courses</u>	<u>Courses We Would Like Cross-Listed</u>	<u>Potential New Courses to be Developed</u>
Art History	AH 322 326	AH 104 310	None currently
History	None	HST 324 325 328 327 357	1. The History of Muslims in China
English	ENG 305	ENG 312	1. Modern American Jewish Literature 2. Jewish Folklore 3. Islamic/Arabic Literature 4. Anti-Semitism in English Renaissance Drama
Modern Languages	None	None	1. Arabic 2. Hebrew
Philosophy	PHL 325 350	PHL 204 205 352	1. Jewish Ethical Thought 2. The Problem of Evil
Political Science	None	None	1. The Politics of Islamic Revival 2. The Politics of Christian Fundamentalism
Sociology	SOC 305	None	1. Islamic Immigration and Adaptation to the West
Anthropology	AN 271	None	1. The Anthropology of Islamic Culture 2. Biblical Archeology