

Proposal Date: 14 Feb 2012

Potter College
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Proposal to include a course in General Education
Contact: paul.fischer@wku.edu

General Education Course Form

1. Current or proposed catalog description of the course.

RELS 318: A survey of the evolution of Chinese Daoism, from its appearance as a philosophical school c.400bce, through its later iterations in a variety of religious organizations.

2. General Education goal(s) met by the course.

- i. Acquisition of aesthetic and appreciative faculties.
- ii. Appreciation of the variety and complexity of the world's cultures.
- iii. Increased sensitivity to diverse perspectives and cultures.
- iv. Exploration and testing of students' own values and ethical frameworks.
- v. Understanding factors that enhance health, well-being, and quality of life.
- vi. Acquisition of historical perspective
- vii. Employment of critical thinking.
- viii. Increased effectiveness of communication.

3. Syllabus statement of how the course meets the General Education goals listed in item 2.

This course fulfills several of the World Cultures (Category E) General Education Requirements (see above). We will accomplish this by

- i. acquainting ourselves with some of the art and literature of East Asia
- ii. considering the difference in worldviews between the West and East Asia
- iii. speaking and writing in a fair and objective manner about very different religious perspectives and cultures
- iv. comparing the ethical paradigms of Christianity and Daoism
- v. considering the relationship between ethics and health, as assumed in Daoism
- vi. trying to understand the worldview(s) of peoples across 2,500 years
- vii. reading primary and secondary sources, then ascertaining and weighing the arguments put forth in each
- viii. practicing and improving: speaking in a group, articulating arguments in a research paper, and creating visual arguments in a "digital narrative"

4. Assessment plan.

At the beginning of the course, an assessment pre-test will be given to determine the initial knowledge base that students have about Daoism and to hear about what particular preconceptions they have about Daoism and Chinese religion and culture more generally. A similar post-test will be administered near the end of the course and evaluated by the instructor. Quantitatively, 70 percent of the students should pass the post-test, demonstrating 1) a basic

knowledge of the key concepts of Daoism; 2) a basic knowledge of the art and literature of East Asia (particularly in the Daoist context); 3) the ability to distinguish between key features of a “Western” worldview and the worldview of Daoism; and 4) the ability to distinguish clearly between the ethical paradigms of Christianity and Daoism. Qualitatively, the instructor will ask the students to comment in writing about how the course has changed their general understanding about Daoism and Chinese religion and culture more generally.

5. Dates or prior committee approvals:

Religious Studies program	February 15, 2012
Department of Philosophy and Religion	February 20, 2012
Potter College Curriculum Committee	March 1, 2012
General Education Committee	March 5, 2012
University Senate	_____

Proposal Date 2/10/12

Proposal Date 2/10/12

**Potter College of Arts and Letters
Philosophy and Religion
Proposal to include a course in General Education
Contact: Jeffrey Samuels
Jeffrey.Samuels@wku.edu**

General Education Course Form

1. Current or proposed catalog description of the course.

RELS 390 (Pali I): A study of the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of the Pali language with a stress on reading primary textual material from a variety of Pali sources. May be taken as a RELS elective.

2. General Education goal(s) met by the course.

This course meets the university's foreign language general education goals. These goals are to:

1. demonstrate basic facility of the vocabulary and grammar of a second language
2. demonstrate basic communication skills in a second language
3. comprehend the various forms of communication in a second language

3. Syllabus statement of how the course meets the General Education goals listed in item 2.

This course fulfills the Foreign Language (Category II) General Education Requirements. As a consequence, this course is designed to carry out Goal 2 of general education as set forth by the university: to cultivate "proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking." We will accomplish this by

- a) read Pali texts from a variety of sources
- b) write Pali sentences and paragraphs
- c) speak Pali to increase verbal fluency.

4. Assessment plan.

Near the end of the term students will take an assessment exam. On the exam 70% of the students should demonstrate a vocabulary of 500 words, an ability to read at the novice mid level, and an ability to speak 10 basic sentences using a varied vocabulary.

5. Dates or prior committee approvals:

Philosophy and Religious Studies	__2/8/2012__
PCAL College Curriculum Committee	__3/1/2012__
General Education Committee	__3/5/2012__
University Senate	_____

Potter College of Arts and Letters
Philosophy and Religion
Proposal to include a course in General Education
Contact: Jeffrey Samuels
Jeffrey.Samuels@wku.edu

General Education Course Form

1. Current or proposed catalog description of the course.

RELS 391 (Pali II): Further study of the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of the Pali language with a stress on reading a wide variety of canonical, commentarial, and post-canonical texts. May be taken as a RELS elective.

2. General Education goal(s) met by the course.

This course meets the university's foreign language general education goals. These goals are to:

1. demonstrate basic facility of the vocabulary and grammar of a second language
2. demonstrate basic communication skills in a second language
3. comprehend the various forms of communication in a second language.

3. Syllabus statement of how the course meets the General Education goals listed in item 2.

This course fulfills the Foreign Language (Category II) General Education Requirements. As a consequence, this course is designed to carry out Goal 2 of general education as set forth by the university: to cultivate "proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking." We will accomplish this by

- a) read Pali texts from a variety of sources
- b) write Pali sentences and paragraphs
- c) speak Pali to increase verbal fluency.

4. Assessment plan.

Near the end of the term students will take an assessment exam. On the exam 70% of the students should demonstrate a vocabulary of 1,000 words, an ability to read a variety of passages at the intermediate level, and an ability to speak 20-30 sentences using a varied vocabulary.

5. Dates or prior committee approvals:

Philosophy and Religious Studies	__2/8/2012__
PCAL College Curriculum Committee	__3/1/2012__
General Education Committee	__3/5/2012__
University Senate	_____