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 03-33C Appr 1/20/04 Appr 3/2/04

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

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Department Religious Studies	Phone 7-2310

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. **Course Proposals**
 New Course _____ Course Number and/or Title Change _____ Course Deletion
 _____ Course Revision _____ Course Description Change

Course prefix, number and full title	RLST485 Selected Topics in Feminist Studies of Religion Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing
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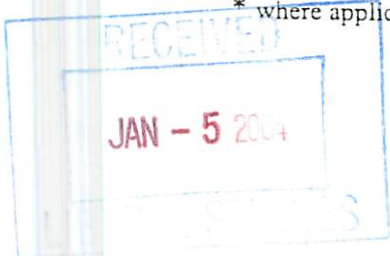
2. **Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate**
 _____ This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course. Other: Women's Studies
 _____ This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.

3. **Program Proposals**
 _____ New Degree Program _____ Program Title Change _____ Program Revision
 _____ New Minor Program _____ New Track

Current program name	Proposed program name, if changing
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4. Approvals		Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair	<i>Tawny Holm</i>	10-28-03
Department Chair	<i>Stuart Charles</i>	10/28/03
College Curriculum Committee Chair	<i>Alan Berkut</i>	12-17-03
College Dean	<i>Alan</i>	12-17-03
Director of Liberal Studies *		
Director of Honors College *		
Provost *		
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)		
UWUCC Chair for APSCUF	<i>Gail Schust</i>	1-20-04

* where applicable



I. Catalog Description

RLST 485 Selected Topics in Feminist Studies of Religion

3 class hours

0 lab hours

Prerequisite: one Religious Studies or one Women's Studies course,
or permission of the instructor

3 credits

(3c-01-3cr)

Offers rotating topics in feminist studies in Religion by alternating professors in the Department of Religious Studies. Such topics may include: "Contemporary Feminist Spirituality Movements," "Goddesses in the Ancient Near East," "Feminist Biblical Scholars and Theologians," and "Women in Buddhism."

II. Course Objectives

Students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge about the topics covered.
2. Understand and be able to explain basic methodologies for each topic.
3. Write clear, precise prose in essay assignments that reflect the norms of the field of Religious Studies.
4. Create and foster an open and courteous atmosphere in which all students are encouraged to articulate their opinions and critically and sensitively discuss the issues behind the course subject matter.

III. Course Outline

This seminar course will be based on an announced topic or theme that will vary from semester to semester depending on the expertise of the faculty member teaching the course. Although the topics will vary, the course will emphasize discussion, presentations or projects, as well as intensive reading and some writing.

Since this course will vary in topic, a sample syllabus is provided to give an example of what the course might look like in a given semester.

RLST 445 Selected Topics in Feminist Studies of Religion

Topic: Women in Buddhism

This course provides students with a perspective on women and Buddhism during different historical periods and in different cultures. We will read: 1) important Buddhist scriptures that discuss female sexuality and spirituality; 2) biographical accounts of pious women (both lay and ordained); 3) scholarly works that discuss Buddhist women in various epochs and societies. Through these sources, we will gain an understanding of Buddhist concepts of gender and sexuality and the tradition's views on women's roles, contributions, and spiritual capacities.

(See section VI below for the full title or publication information of readings.)

Week 1: Introduction to Buddhism

Weeks 2-4: The First Buddhist Nuns and Images of Women in Early Buddhism
Reading: Susan Murcott, *The First Buddhist Women: Translation and Commentaries on the Therigatha*
Presentations: “Images of Women in Early Buddhist Texts”; “Rules for Nuns in the Vinaya”

Weeks 5-6: Images and Roles of Women in Mahayana Buddhism
Readings: Diana Paul, *Women in Buddhism: Images of the Feminine in Mahayana Tradition*
Presentations: “Images of Women in Mahayana Sutras”; “Rules for Nuns in Mahayana Traditions”

Weeks 7-9: Buddhist Nuns in China
Readings: Kathryn Ann Tsai, *Lives of the Nuns: Biographies of Chinese Buddhist Nuns from the Fourth to Sixth Centuries*
Presentations: “The Bodhisattva Guanyin”; “Images of Women in Chinese Buddhist Sutras”
Film: “Pilgrimages to Tianzhu and Putuo”

Week 10-12: Buddhist Women in Japan
Readings: Stuart Chandler, *Lessons of the Canary: The Autobiography of Oishi Junkyo—Geisha, Artist, Buddhist Nun*; selections from Sallie B. King *Journey in Search of the Way*, Selections from Paula Kane Robinson Arai, *Women Living Zen: Japanese Soto Buddhist Nuns* (reader)
Presentations: “Geishas, Nuns, and Other Marginal/Independent Japanese Women”; “Images of Women in Japanese Buddhist Texts”
Film: “Geisha”

Weeks 13-14 Contemporary Issues
Reading: Karma Lekshe Tsomo (ed.), *Buddhist Women Across Cultures: Realizations*
Presentations: “The Movement for Full Ordination of Buddhist Nuns”; “Buddhist Nuns in America”

IV. Evaluation Methods

Evaluation methods may vary. A sample follows for the syllabus above.

10% Attendance and participation

20% Presentations (based on guided research, groups of two or three students will give

presentations to the rest of the class)
20% Quizzes
50% Exams (midterm 20%, final 30%)
[Optional paper (50%)] Any student may write a twelve-page term paper in place of taking the two exams.

Grading Scale: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, <60% = F

V. Attendance Policy

Student participation and preparation is essential to a student's comprehension of the material as well as a good grade in the course. Particulars for penalizing missed classes will be left to individual professors.

VI. Required textbooks, supplemental books and readings

Required texts will vary by semester according to topic. The following is a sample list for the topic above:

Chandler, Stuart. "RLST445 Reader":

Arai, Paula Kane Robinson. *Women Living Zen: Japanese Soto Buddhist Nuns*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1999: 83-163.

King, Sallie B. *Journey in Search of the Way: The Spiritual Autobiography of Satomi Myodo*. NY: SUNY Press, 1993.

Chandler, Stuart (translator). *Lessons of the Canary: The Autobiography of Oishi Junkyo—Geisha, Artist, Buddhist Nun*. Unpublished text.

Murcott, Susan. *The First Buddhist Women: Translation and Commentaries on the Therigatha*. Berkeley, CA: Parallax Press, 1991.

Paul, Diana. *Women in Buddhism: Images of the Feminine in Mahayana Tradition*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1985.

Tsai, Kathryn Ann. *Lives of the Nuns: Biographies of Chinese Buddhist Nuns from the Fourth to Sixth Centuries*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 1972.

Tsomo, Karma Lekshe (ed.), *Buddhist Women Across Cultures: Realizations*. NY: SUNY Press, 1999.

VII. Special Resource Requirements

There are no special resource requirements.

VIII. Bibliography

No single biography is applicable because of variable content course. As requested, a bibliography is provided for the sample topic described.

- Allione, T. *Women of Wisdom*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1984.
- Dalby Liza Crihfield. *Geisha*. University of California Press, 1998.
- . *Kimono: Fashioning Culture*. Washington: University of Washington Press, 1998.
- Gross, M.R. *Buddhism After Patriarchy*. NY: SUNY Press, 1993.
- Kalyanavaca (ed.). *The Moon and Flowers: A Woman's Path to Enlightenment*. Windhorse, 1997.
- Klein, Anne C. *Meeting the Great Bliss Queen*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.
- Kawakatsu, Ken-ichi. *Kimono*. Tokyo: Japan Travel Bureau, 1960.
- Queen, Christopher and Sallie B. King (eds.). *Engaged Buddhism*. NY: SUNY Press, 1996.
- Scott, A.C. *The Flower and Willow World: The Story of the Geisha*. Orion Press, 1960.
- Shaw. M. *Passionate Enlightenment: Women in Tantric Buddhism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994.
- Tsomo, Karma Lekshe (ed.). *Sakyadhita: Daughters of the Buddha*. NY: Snow Lion, 1988.
- Willis, Janice D (ed.). *Feminine Ground: Essays on Women and Tibet*. NY: Snow Lion, 1989.

Course Analysis Questionnaire

A. Details of the Course

A1. This course is one of the controlled electives for students in the BA in Religious Studies and for students in the Women's Studies program. This course is not intended to be a Liberal Studies course.

A2. This course does not require changes in any other course in the department. A program revision of the BA in Religious Studies will include this course among the controlled electives.

A3. Some of the individual topics of this course have been already offered: Oishi Junkyo was offered Spring 2002.

A4. This course is not intended to be dual level.

A5. This course is not to be taken for variable credit.

A6. Similar courses are offered at the following institutions, among others:

The University of Texas at El Paso: "Buddhism"

Wesleyan University: "Women in Buddhist Literature"

University of Michigan: "Topics in Buddhism: Women in Tantric Buddhism"

Reed College: "Women and Buddhism"

Truman State University: "Women in Buddhism"

A7. No professional society, accrediting authority, law or other external agency recommends or requires the content or skills of this proposed course.

B. Interdisciplinary Implications

B1. This course will be taught by one instructor each time it is offered. It will be offered by professors of the Dept. of Religious Studies on a rotating basis.

B2. The content of this course does not overlap with any other at the University.

B3. This course is cross-listed with Women's Studies.

C. Implementation

C1. No new faculty member is required to teach this course. This course will be counted as one preparation and three hours of equated workload. Teaching this course will not negatively impact the teaching schedule of the Religious Studies department or its ability to offer the other courses in the Religious Studies program because this course will be offered on rotation. In addition, this course has already been offered as a Special Topics course in the past, and thus has already become part of the department's curriculum.

C2. Other resources:

- a. Current space allocations are adequate to offer this course.
- b. No special equipment is needed for this course.
- c. No laboratory supplies are necessary for this course.
- d. Library holdings are adequate.
- e. No travel funds are necessary.

C3. The resources for this course are not funded by any grant.

C4. This course will be offered every fourth semester.

C5. One section will be offered at a time.

C6. Up to 25 students can be accommodated in this class in which students do a considerable amount of participating verbally and in writing.

C7. No professional society recommends enrollment limits or parameters for this course.

C8. This course does not involve the use of telecourses or the use of interactive technologies.

D. Miscellaneous

No additional information is necessary.