PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE
UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2010-2012
or
LAW SCHOOL CATALOG, 2010-2012

NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM(S):

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EXPLAIN CHANGE(S) TO DEGREE PROGRAM:

1. Eliminate the requirement in that students take six hours of specified lower-division Religious Studies coursework (R S 305 or 310; either 302, 304, 318, or 319).

2. Reduce the number of hours in the “primary area” from nine additional hours of upper-division coursework to six.

3. Add the requirement that all Religious Studies majors take R S 375S Advanced Seminar in Religious Studies. This course will be added to our inventory in the fall.

4. Modify the requirements for the minor for Religious Studies majors to allow students to minor in a foreign language other than that used to fulfill the foreign language requirement. For students following this option, 12 hours of language classes may be lower-division coursework, as long as six hours progress beyond course 507 or the equivalent.

Indicate pages in the Undergraduate Catalog where changes will be made:

Pages 327-328

GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S):

1. In the current catalog, these lower-division courses can also be used to satisfy distribution requirements in Part II of the major; this sometimes caused problems in the degree audit system and necessitated overrides. Furthermore, our students often enter the major as upper-division students, attracted to the major by one of our upper-division courses. This makes a neat progression through the major from lower- to upper-division courses unlikely. Finally, we want to provide lower-division students interested in Religious Studies with the option of taking any of our lower-division courses rather than just those on a prescribed list.

2. This change will allow students more choice. Those interested in specializing in a particular area or religious tradition will still be able to do so, but other students, interested in a variety of areas, will be given more latitude to explore.
3. This course is designed to serve as a capstone experience for our majors. It will be a “topics” course, taught by different faculty on different subjects, but each course will cover multiple religious traditions and ask students to focus on thematic and methodological issues in the study of religion. It will allow us to “flag” a course in our major for “independent inquiry,” and will allow us to better assess the progress of the students in our major.

4. Knowledge of languages is important for the study of religion in its cultural context, and we would like to encourage our students, especially those considering graduate school, to consider taking multiple languages.

**SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE(S):**

This proposal does not impact other colleges or schools.

This proposal will not change the number of required hours for degree completion.

This proposal does not involve changes to the core curriculum.

**COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS:**

(Circle yes or no)

Department: Yes X Date: April 22, 2009

College: Yes No Date:

Dean: Yes No Date:

Please include a draft of the catalog copy on an attached page. The draft should be based on the text of the current catalog available at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catcopy.html.
Changes in Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in Religious Studies in the College of Liberal Arts Chapter of the Undergraduate Catalog, 2010-2012

On pages 327-328, under the heading DEGREES, in the MAJORS AND MINORS subsection of the College of Liberal Arts chapter of the Undergraduate Catalog, 2008-2010, make the following changes:

Religious Studies

Major: Thirty semester hours of religious studies coursework, of which at least eighteen hours must be upper-division. [Unless otherwise indicated, a] A single course may not be counted toward more than one of the following requirements. The thirty hours of coursework must include

[1.] Religious Studies 305 or 310; and either 302, 304, 318, or 319. These courses may also be counted toward requirement 2.]

[2.] 1. At least three semester hours in each of the following areas. A list of courses in each area is available from the religious studies adviser.
   a. Area I: Religions of Asia.
   b. Area II: Religions of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.
   c. Area III: Religions of the Americas.

[3.] 2. Primary area: [Nine] Six additional hours of upper-division coursework in one of the areas listed in requirement [2] 1 above. The student should choose the primary area in consultation with the religious studies adviser.

3. Religious Studies 375S Advanced Seminar in Religious Studies

Minor for religious studies majors: Twelve semester hours, including at least six hours of upper-division coursework, in any one other field of study in the University. Six of the required twelve hours must be taken in residence. If the minor is in a foreign language other than that used to fulfill the foreign language requirement, the twelve hours may be lower-division but must include at least six hours beyond course 507 or the equivalent.