

26 February 2003

To: St. Olaf College Faculty
Fr: CEPC
Re: New Course Proposals

At the March 6 Faculty Meeting CEPC will move the approval of the following courses:

Religion 230: Theology of Creation

Catalog description:

Christians affirm that God created the world in and through Christ and continues to sustain it by the Holy Spirit. This course attends to the themes of creation and “new creation” in relation to Biblical texts, to issues posed by science, and to theological reflections on the created world as fallen and redeemed. Major attention is paid to classic and modern theological discussions of creation and new creation. BTS-T.

Rationale:

This new course focuses on a major theological issue not currently addressed in depth by any other Religion Department offering. It will systematically engage Biblical texts, the work of ancient and modern theologians, as well as the work of certain scientists, on the nature and meaning of the Christian belief in creation. Some of the topics studied are as follows: Biblical affirmations concerning a created world; creation vs. creationism; creation and science; nature and grace; creation and the ecological crisis; redemption through Christ as a “new” creation.

Religion 233: God and Faith in Autobiography

Catalog statement:

This course focuses on autobiographical texts in which the writer describes his or her life in relationship to God. The course is based on the central Christian theological belief that God is known in historical experience. We study the different ways in which Christians have sought to understand God's role in their lives by correlating their own experiences with the classic beliefs, symbols, and values of the Christian faith. BTS-T

Rationale:

Autobiography provides a unique perspective on Christian theology. We will analyze the meaning of central Christian beliefs in terms of their implications for human life, looking at the ways these beliefs affect a person's attitude to society and the Church, his or her moral decisions, relationships to other persons, etc. We explore theological statements in relation to personal experiences of sin, grace, salvation, and so forth. We study how classic autobiographical texts interpret the central Christian doctrines of God, Christ, and redemption. The course involves

exposure to substantial parts of the existing theological tradition, including classic Christian autobiographers such as Augustine, Abelard, and Bunyan, and modern writers such as Dorothy Day, C. S. Lewis, and Langdon Gilkey. We also examine authors such as Tolstoy and Annie Dillard, whose relation to Christian tradition is more ambiguous and who reflect at length on the nature of God and Christian belief. We read more abstract theological discourse by such thinkers as Paul Tillich, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Daniel Migliore. The syllabus includes a broad range of works by classic and modern figures, men and women, from a variety of historical situations and with very diverse understandings of Christianity.

Religion 276: The Ethics of Jesus

Catalog statement:

This course examines the ethical teachings of Jesus as found in the canonical Gospels (with special focus on the Sermon on the Mount), explores how these teachings have been understood at some major moments in Western history, and brings them to bear on the task of contemporary ethical reflection. Issues examined include, for example, non-violence, social and economic justice, sexuality, and ethnic conflict. EIN

Rationale:

The course fills a need both for EIN courses in the General Education curriculum and for diversity in courses offered for the religion major. Jesus is obviously a principal source for ethical reflection, yet we have no course that focuses specifically on the ethical implications of what he said and did. The course will examine the teachings and deeds of Jesus for their ethical content, consider major moments in the history of the reception of these ideas, and discuss present ethical issues in their light.

Political Science 117: Political Repression and Human Rights

Catalog description:

What makes a person capable of repression? Who obeys morally unjust orders to torture or kill innocent victims? What causes genocide? Who risks his or her life to defend others' rights? Using case studies from around the world, this course looks at various explanations for the range of ways citizens respond to repressive government actions, with special emphasis on theories of political psychology. HBS.

Rationale:

This course offers political science majors and other students an opportunity to explore the possible explanations offered across disciplines for why human rights violations occur and why people mobilize to resist these violations. This course has previously only been offered during interim. It is always fully subscribed with long waiting lists. It was not offered this past interim because the instructor

was on sabbatical. If two sections are offered during the 2003 fall semester, it will not only begin to address anticipated demand and backlog, it will prepare a substantial number of students to address the issues of the 2004 Peace Prize Conference with greater interest and sophistication.

Management Studies 229: Arts Management

Catalog description :

This course provides an overview of the key issues that face arts administrators. Topics addressed include human resource management, budgeting, fund raising, audience development and information systems to support these activities. Case studies illustrate key concepts. Includes guest lecturers from the Twin Cities arts community. HBS

Rationale:

The Management Studies Program serves students in all St. Olaf majors. The Program seeks to prepare students to take on management roles in all types of organizations including “for-profit” businesses, “not-for-profit” arts and other organizations, and governmental units. This course addresses general management concepts as applied to arts organizations. It also covers unique problems faced by arts organizations such as: fund raising, recruitment and management of artists, managing volunteers and volunteer boards, program design, and public relations. Fine arts students have benefited from this course in past Interims. For the next two years we intend to offer the course as a semester class so that the regular instructor can be involved in a program to build a closer relationship with Tumaini University in Iringa Tanzania. This work will require her to be off campus during Interim 2004 and 2005.

Physical Education 390: Exercise Science Seminar

Catalog statement:

A research-based course that introduces students to advanced topics in exercise science, such as Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, and Motor Learning. The course covers research methods in exercise science, literature review, and design of a research proposal. Required for the exercise science major. Prerequisite: Completion of requirements in the Exercise Science major, or co-registration in the student's final core course in the major.

Rationale:

This seminar is a required capstone course that will enhance Exercise Science students' understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of human movement. Exercise Science students take several related and supporting courses from such areas as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Nursing, Psychology, Economics, and Family and Social Service. This course will change the focus from the study of individual sub-disciplines within the major (Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics,

Motor Learning) and the supporting courses, to a holistic and integrative approach to human movement and performance.

Asian Studies 240: Talking in Japan and the US: Language, Identity, and Beyond

Catalog description:

This course looks at language as it creates and responds to its cultural and social environments. Students compare and contrast major aspects of language use in Japan and the United States. Students explore the general underlying elements of talk (e.g., standard vs. regional dialects, language attitude and ideologies, politeness, gendered speech patterns, communication styles) and learn to understand how speakers convey subtle meanings, sometimes unconsciously. Knowledge of Japanese is helpful but not necessary. Taught in English. MCS-G, ORC.

Rationale:

This course looks at language as it creates and responds to its cultural and social environments. Variation within a language results from various factors: some things beyond individuals (such as historical and geographic differences) as well as some things which look at people both as individuals and as a group (differences in social statuses, purposes, and other kinds of identities that individuals possess). We will seek to explain as well as describe such factors through comparing and contrasting major aspects of language use in Japanese and in American English. The course aims to help students understand the general underlying elements of talk (standard vs. regional dialects, language attitude and ideologies, politeness, gendered speech patterns, communication styles, etc.) and learn to understand how speakers convey subtle meanings, sometimes unconsciously. Every native speaker of a language has beliefs and attitudes towards certain speech patterns. We hope to develop analytical skills that allow us to look at speakers of languages and dialects from more sophisticated perspectives.

This course serves both Asian Studies majors and linguistics concentrators.

Art History 260: The Arts of Japan

Catalog description:

This course introduces the history of Japanese art, offering a survey of major artistic developments from neolithic times to the present. Among the topics to be considered: funerary remains of the neolithic through Kofun eras; indigenous as well as imported religious traditions and their imagery; the secular arts. Issues to be discussed include production and patronage, function, and borrowing and influence in the evolution of artistic works. ALS-A, MCS-G.

Rationale:

The objective of this course is two-fold: first, to learn basic art historical methodologies for critically assessing a wide variety of works in many different media; second, to learn about Japanese tradition through the art and artifacts that Japanese society has produced. Although the focus is on the material culture of Japan, the course will also include a basic survey of Japanese religious traditions, geography, history, and some discussion of language. Through in-class and on-line work students will also improve their writing ability and their oral presentation skills.