

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Terry Wotherspoon; Chair, Academic Program Committee

DATE OF MEETING: October 19, 2017

SUBJECT: Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins and termination of the minor in Jewish and Christian Origins

COUNCIL ACTION: **For Information Only**

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The Academic Programs Committee approved the conversion of the minor in Jewish and Christian Origins to a Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins at its October 4, 2017 meeting, effective May 2018.

The College of Arts and Science proposed to convert the existing minor in Jewish and Christian to a certificate of proficiency to revitalize and promote the option for undergraduate students. With numerous course deletions in History and Archeology and changes in the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies (formerly the Department of Religion and Culture), it has been difficult to publicize and maintain the minor. The reclassifying of the minor into an interdisciplinary certificate will allow those who pursue the program to emerge with a tangible academic credential.

Additionally, the certificate would be useful for M.A. students in a variety of disciplines who have little or no background in Religious Studies. By converting the minor to a certificate of proficiency, it makes the program more accessible for graduate students and provides a clear option for graduate students seeking a better grounding in the history, methodology and scope of the Religious Studies discipline.

Students must be admitted to a college at the U of S in order to enroll in the certificate.

With the approval of the Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins, APC also approved the termination of the minor in Jewish and Christian Origins.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposal of Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins
2. Report Form for Program Termination – Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Proposal for Academic or Curricular Change

PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

Title of proposal: Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish & Christian Origins

Field(s) of Specialization: Jewish & Christian Origins

Level(s) of Concentration: Certificate of Proficiency

Degree College: Arts and Science

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, fax, e-mail):

Mary Ann Beavis
Professor, Department Head, Religion and Culture
St. Thomas More College
mbeavis@stmcollege.ca
306-966-8933

Proposed date of implementation: May 2018

Proposal Document

Academic justification:

The purpose of this proposal is to convert the current Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins to a Certificate of Proficiency Program. The Minor was created in 2007 in order to configure the offerings of the Department of Religion and Culture in biblical and related studies in a way that would highlight their relevance in western culture and religion, together with related courses from other disciplines (notably History and Archaeology), providing “an interdisciplinary approach to the academic study of the origins, development of and cultural impact of two world religions, Judaism and Christianity, from their beginnings in ancient Israel to the parallel developments of rabbinic Judaism and emergent Christianity subsequent to the first Jewish War of 70 C.E. to Late Antiquity.”

Due to course deletions in History and Archaeology, and drastic changes to the Arts and Science Department of Religion and Culture (now the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies), it has proven difficult to publicize and maintain the Minor. In 2015, these issues were somewhat rectified by a thorough revision of the Minor, with the addition of several History and Philosophy courses, as well as

new courses in Religious Studies (RLST 112; RLST 113; and RLST 300; and RLST 237) and relevant language courses (Hebrew, Greek, Latin).

As will be explained below, the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies, the STM Department of Religion and Culture, and St. Thomas More College strongly support the proposal to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program.

The data available to us indicates that 1 student has graduated with the minor, and two others are in the process of taking it. For the reasons mentioned above, the Minor received little attention for several years, but with the revision in 2015, it is receiving more publicity. In particular, the Minor is featured on the STM College website (<http://stmcollege.ca/study-here/classes-programs/minor-jco.php>), since the majority of the Religious Studies courses in the Minor are offered by STM faculty. The advantages of a Certificate Program over a Minor would undoubtedly encourage more student interest, as well as enable interested members of the public to register for the Program and emerge with a tangible academic credential.

A second reason to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program emerged at a recent meeting of our departmental Graduate Committee. Each year, the departmental Graduate Chair receives many inquiries from potential M.A. students who have little or no background in Religious Studies. Unfortunately, when we are asked what the student would need to do to improve their academic background in the discipline, all we can suggest is that they take some undergraduate courses in Religious Studies. The Graduate Committee members agreed that if the Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins were converted into a Certificate, such potential M.A. students could, in a relatively short period of time, gain a grounding in the history, methodology and scope of the discipline that would help the Graduate Committee to assess their aptitude for graduate studies. In particular, the availability of this Certificate would make the M.A. in Religion and Culture much more accessible for U of S students with majors in other disciplines, as well as for eligible mature students interested in graduate study. Completion of the Certificate would also be an incentive for students to take further courses in Religious Studies and related disciplines.

Based on inquiries from prospective graduate students as described above, in addition to interest from U of S students and the general public, enrollments are estimated at a total of 18 students in any given year, although this number would take several years to achieve; a goal of five years to reach this enrollment goal seems feasible.

Admissions

Students must be admitted to a College at the University of Saskatchewan.

Description of the program

Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish & Christian Origins

The Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins provides an interdisciplinary approach to the academic study of the origins, development of and cultural impact of two world religions, Judaism and Christianity, from their beginnings in ancient Israel to the parallel developments of rabbinic Judaism and emergent Christianity subsequent to the first Jewish War of 70 C.E. to Late Antiquity, including some coverage of the origins of Islam in relation to Judaism and Christianity.

This Certificate may be completed in conjunction with, or apart from any degree program, and is open to students in all Colleges. This program is subject to the promotion and residency standards for Certificate of Proficiency programs in the College of Arts & Science.

Students who have taken equivalent courses at other institutions may apply for transfer credit, which if granted will be applied to the Certificate.

Students may take the required courses concurrently with other courses in the Program.

Requirements (24 credit units)

Of the courses used to fulfill the program requirements, at least 9 credit units must be at the 300-level or higher.

- RLST 112.3 (Western Religions in Society and Culture) (Intake)
- RLST 328 (Christian-Jewish Relations in Historical Perspective) (Capstone)

Choose **6 credit units** from the following list of courses in **Biblical Literature**:

- RLST 219.3 (Bible and Western Culture)
- RLST 225.3 (Perspectives on Jesus)
- RLST 253.3 (Introduction to the Old Testament)
- RLST 254.3 (Introduction to the New Testament)
- RLST 300.3 (Hidden Books of the Bible)
- RLST 301.3 (Apocalyptic Then and Now)
- RLST 359.3 (Helpmates, Harlots, Goddesses and Heroines)
- RLST 365.3 (Bible and Film)

Choose **6 credit units** from the following list of courses in **Early Judaism and Christianity**:

- RLST 113.3 (Islamic Civilization and Culture)
- RLST 227.3 (Introduction to Judaism)
- RLST 237.3 (Life after Death in World Religions)
- RLST 361.3 (Rabbinic Literature)
- RLST 363.3 (Early Christian Literature)
- HIST 208.3 (The Roman Republic: Growth of a Mediterranean State)
- HIST 209.3 (Roman Empire: Politics, Society and Culture)
- HIST 217.3 (The Later Roman Empire)
- HIST 221.3 (Sub-Roman Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain)
- HIST 230.3 (Christianity from Constantine to the Age of the Renaissance and the Reformations 300 to 1650 CE)
- HIST 308.6 (Rome: Building and Living in the Ancient City)
- HIST 320.3 (Pagans, Christians & Barbarians: Identity and Empire in the Roman World)
- HIST 331.3 (Magic, Science and Religion)
- HIST 335.3 (Spectacles of Death in the Roman World)
- HIST 402.3 (Aspects of Late Antiquity)
- PHIL 202.3 (Philosophy of Religion)
- PHIL 208.3 (Ancient Philosophy Presocratics to Plato)
- PHIL 209.3 (Ancient Philosophy Aristotle to Plotinus)

Choose **3 credit units** from the following lists of courses in **Near Eastern and Classical Archaeology**, and **Languages**:

Near Eastern and Classical Archaeology

- ARCH 116 (Introduction to Near Eastern and Classical Archaeology)

- ARCH 244.3 (Archaeology and Cultural Development Ancient Israel and Syria)
- ARCH 252.3 (Near Eastern Archaeological Field Work)
- ARCH 257 (Archaeology of Ancient Egypt)
- ARCH 258 (Archaeology of Ancient Mesopotamia)
- ARCH 356 (Development of Complex Cultures in Eastern Mediterranean and Near Eastern Regions)

Languages

- GRK 112.3 (Greek for Beginners 1)
- GRK 113.3 (Greek for Beginners 2)
- HEB 114.3 (Intro to Hebrew 1)
- HEB 117.3 (Intro to Hebrew 2)
- LATN 112.3 (Latin for Beginners 1)
- LATN 113.3 (Latin for Beginners 2)

Choose **3 additional credit units** from any of the four course lists above.

Consultation

Consultation between the Arts and Science Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies, and the St. Thomas More Department of Religion and Culture was done in the course of regular interactions/meetings between the two, related departments, and by email.

Consultation with the Department Heads of Archaeology and Anthropology, and History, as well as the Program Chair for Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies was conducted by email. See Appendix A.

Budget

No new resources are required. All courses required in this program already exist, and are regularly taught as part of programs in Archaeology; Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies; Classical and Medieval Latin; Classics; History; Philosophy; and Religion and Culture. The two required courses may be taught by at least 3 faculty members, and teaching load for the restricted options is spread over many faculty members in at least 4 departments. No changes are anticipated to current teaching assignments or budget allocations.

The Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins will be eliminated upon approval of this program. The certificate program is not anticipated to create additional costs with respect to course delivery, and advising requirements remain the same as for the Minor. The Arts and Science Undergraduate Student Office (UGSO) will see some additional work as the Certificate of Proficiency is a stand-alone credential, and therefore students in the new program will now have the opportunity to convocate separately from this program. The UGSO has the capacity to manage this work.

Tuition in this program is course-based, using standard tuition rates. Students in this program are eligible for financial aid based on the same conditions as other U of S students.

The enrolment goal for this program is 18 students per year, with an expectation that it will take 5 years to reach this goal. As the creation of this program requires no additional course offerings, no minimum enrolment has been set. The anticipated use of this program as preparation for the M.A. in Religion and Culture may result in incremental enrolments at the undergraduate level, and may result in additional enrolment in the M.A. program.

The existing minor program is housed in the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies. The new Certificate will be coordinated by St. Thomas More College, under the academic authority of the College of Arts & Science, following the model in place for the Minor in Critical Perspectives on Social Justice & the Common Good, and the Minor in Ukrainian Studies. An interdisciplinary program committee, comprised of members from participating Arts and Science and STM departments, will take responsibility for maintenance of the program and those aspects of student advising normally provided by the home department.

College Statement

The proposal to replace the Minor in Jewish & Christian Origins with a Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish & Christian Origins was circulated to all faculty members in Arts and Science and St. Thomas More College through the Arts and Science College Course and Program Challenge on April 5, 2017, and was approved by the Academic Programs Committee (B.A., B.F.A., B.Mus.) on April 13, 2017. The proposal was recirculated with the meeting agenda for the Arts and Science Faculty Council, and was approved by that body on May 16, 2017.

See Appendix B for letter from Gordon DesBrisay, Vice-Dean Academic, College of Arts and Science

Attachments

Appendix A: Evidence of Consultation

Appendix B: Notice of Intent, College letter of support, and response from Planning & Priorities Committee

Appendix C: Consultation with the Registrar form – attached.

Appendix A: Evidence of Consultation

On Mar 15, 2017, at 13:01, Mary Ann Beavis <mbeavis@stmcollege.ca> wrote:

Dear Veronika and George,

I have written up the proposal to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program (attached). One feature of the proposal is that I have recommended that the Certificate be coordinated by an interdisciplinary/intercollegial Committee, rather than housed in the Department (as with the Minor). I have sought the advice of the coordinators of similar committees at STM, and on their advice, have recommended a Committee made up of two STM faculty members and one Arts & Science faculty member in relevant departments/programs. In the case that the Certificate is approved, the Minor will be deleted.

Best,

Mary Ann Beavis, Ph.D.
Professor
Head, Department of Religion and Culture
St. Thomas More College
1437 College Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6
Phone (306) 966 8933
Fax (306) 966 8904
mbeavis@stmcollege.ca

From: George Keyworth [mailto:george.keyworth@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:21 PM
To: Mary Ann Beavis <mbeavis@stmcollege.ca>
Cc: Makarova, Veronika <v.makarova@usask.ca>
Subject: Re: FYI - Jewish & Christian Origins Certificate Proposal

Dear Mary Ann,

Thank you for alerting me to this change. Good luck with this move; let's hope it is approved swiftly.

Best,
George

From: Mary Ann Beavis [mailto:mbeavis@stmcollege.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Lieverse, Angela <arl947@mail.usask.ca>; Liu, Yin <yin.liu@usask.ca>; Cunfer, Geoffrey <geoff.cunfer@usask.ca>; Ria Jenkins <rjenkins@stmcollege.ca>; Alward, Peter <pea565@mail.usask.ca>
Cc: Darrell McLaughlin <dmclaughlin@stmcollege.ca>; Miriam Müller <mmuller@stmcollege.ca>
Subject: Jewish and Christian Origins Certificate of Proficiency Proposal - Please reply!

Dear Colleagues,

Attached is a proposal to convert the existing Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins to a Certificate Program (Certificate of Proficiency) in Jewish and Christian Origins. Since, like the Minor, the Certificate includes courses taught in your Department/Program, I am writing to solicit your support for the proposal. If you could submit your comments by Wednesday, March 22, I would be very grateful.

Best regards,

Mary Ann Beavis, Ph.D.
Professor
Head, Department of Religion and Culture
St. Thomas More College
1437 College Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6
Phone (306) 966 8933
Fax (306) 966 8904
mbeavis@stmcollege.ca

From: Yin Liu [mailto:yin.liu@usask.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:30 AM
To: Mary Ann Beavis <mbeavis@stmcollege.ca>
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Jewish and Christian Origins Certificate of Proficiency Proposal - Please reply!

Mary Ann

Thank you for the reminder.

CMRS has no objections to the proposed program change.

Yin Liu

From: Lieverse, Angela [mailto:arl947@mail.usask.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Mary Ann Beavis <mbeavis@stmcollege.ca>
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Jewish and Christian Origins Certificate of Proficiency Proposal - Please reply!
Importance: High

Hi Mary Ann

So far, I've had no comments back from my colleagues, even though I forwarded your message last week. If I hear nothing, I think it's safe to assume that people are supportive of the proposal.

Thank you,

Angela

From: Cunfer, Geoffrey [mailto:geoff.cunfer@usask.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:47 PM

To: Mary Ann Beavis <mbeavis@stmcollege.ca>

Subject: RE: Jewish and Christian Origins Certificate of Proficiency Proposal - Please reply!

Dear Mary Ann,

The language courses (GRK and LATN) are fine. Most of the History and Classics courses on your list are still on the books and still being taught. However, please note the following:

HIST 217.3 has changed its title to "The Later Roman Empire".

The Roman history survey that we offer most years is split into 2 courses: HIST 208.3 (The Roman Republic: Growth of a Mediterranean State) which is not on your list and HIST 209.3 (The Roman Empire: Politics, Society and Culture), which is on the list. Both would make sense for this certificate.

CLAS 252.3 (Paganism and Christianity) will no longer be taught. It will be replaced with a new course, HIST 320.3 (Pagans, Christians, Barbarians: Identity & Empire in the Roman World).

I'd encourage you to consult STM History (Sharon Wright). Some of these courses have been taught in the past by Prof. Reese, who will no longer be available. It is unclear what will become of those classes in the future.

Best,

Geoff

Geoff Cunfer
History Department Head
University of Saskatchewan
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Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5
Canada

geoff.cunfer@usask.ca
(306) 966-7969
711 Arts Building

From: Ria Jenkins [mailto:rjenkins@stmcollege.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:59 AM

To: Mary Ann Beavis <mbeavis@stmcollege.ca>

Subject: Re: REMINDER: Jewish and Christian Origins Certificate of Proficiency Proposal - Please reply!

Dear Mary Ann,

As acting head of the STM philosophy program, I have read over the rationale for the change to a certificate, considering the impact of this change on STM philosophy programs, and I support this proposal to convert the current Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins to a Certificate program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Maricarmen Jenkins,

Acting Head of the STM Philosophy department

Appendix B

Notice of Intent Jewish and Christian Origins Certificate Program

1. What is the motivation for proposing this program at this time? What elements of the University and/or society support and/or require this program?

The purpose of the proposed certificate program is to convert the current Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins to a Certificate Program. The Minor was created in 2007 in order to configure the offerings of the Department of Religion and Culture in biblical and related studies in a way that would highlight their relevance in western culture and religion, together with related courses from other disciplines (notably History and Archaeology), providing “an interdisciplinary approach to the academic study of the origins, development of and cultural impact of two world religions, Judaism and Christianity, from their beginnings in ancient Israel to the parallel developments of rabbinic Judaism and emergent Christianity subsequent to the first Jewish War of 70 C.E. to Late Antiquity.”¹

Due to the impact of TransformUs, course deletions in History and Archaeology, and drastic changes to the Department of Religion and Culture (now the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies), it has proven difficult to publicize and maintain the Minor. In 2015, these issues were somewhat rectified by a thorough revision of the Minor, with the addition of several History and Philosophy courses, as well as new courses in Religious Studies (RLST 112; RLST 113; and RLST 300; the new RLST 237 has subsequently been added) and relevant language courses (Hebrew, Greek, Latin).

As will be explained below, the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies, the STM Department of Religion and Culture, and St. Thomas More College strongly support the proposal to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program.

2. What is the anticipated student demand for the program? Does the program meet a perceived need, particularly within a national context? What is the projected student enrolment in the program initially and over time, and on what evidence is the projection based?

Since U of S Minors are difficult to track, it is impossible to gauge how many students have claimed it since its inception in 2007. For the reasons mentioned above, the Minor received little attention for several years, but with the revision in 2015, it is receiving more publicity and response. In particular, the Minor is featured on the STM College website (<http://stmcollege.ca/study-here/classes-programs/minor-jco.php>), since the majority of the Religious Studies courses in the Minor are offered by STM faculty. The advantages of a Certificate Program over a Minor would undoubtedly encourage more student interest, as well as enable interested members of the public to register for the Program and emerge with a tangible academic credential.

A second, and more urgent, reason to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program emerged at a recent meeting of our departmental Graduate Committee. Each year, the departmental Graduate Chair receives many inquiries from potential M.A. students who have little or no background in Religious Studies. Unfortunately, when we are asked what the student would need to do to improve their academic background in the discipline, all we can suggest is that they take some undergraduate courses in Religious Studies. The Committee members agreed that if the Jewish and Christian Origins Minor were converted into a Certificate, such potential M.A. students could, in a relatively short period of time, gain a grounding in the history, methodology and scope of the discipline that would help the Graduate Committee to assess their aptitude for graduate studies. In particular, the availability of this Certificate would make the M.A. in Religion and Culture much more accessible for U of S students with majors in other disciplines, as well as for eligible mature students interested in graduate study. Completion of the Certificate would also be an incentive for students to take further courses in Religious Studies disciplines.

¹ <http://stmcollege.ca/study-here/classes-programs/minor-jco.php>

Based on inquiries from prospective graduate students as described above, in addition to interest from U of S students and the general public, enrolments are estimated at a total of 18 students in any given year.

3. How does this proposal fit with the priorities of the current college or school plan and the University's integrated plan? If the program was not envisioned during the integrated planning process, what circumstances have provided the impetus to offer the program at this time? Are there measurable benefits to offering the program at this time?

This program was not envisioned during the integrated planning process; the impetus to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program is outlined above. As previously noted, the measurable benefits of the Program would include: (1) enhanced student numbers relative to the existing Minor; (2) enhanced admissions to the M.A. Program in Religion and Culture; (3) higher enrolments in Religious Studies courses, as well as in the Classics, History, Philosophy, Archaeology and Languages courses in the Program (which would be the same courses as those in the Minor).

4. What is the relationship of the proposed program to other programs offered by the college or school and to programs offered elsewhere (interactions, similarities, differences, relative priorities)? What effect will the proposed program have on other similar or related programs, and, in particular, on student enrolment in these programs? Is there justification to proceed regardless of any perceived duplication? Will a program be deleted as a result of offering the new program?

There is no similar program in the College of Arts and Science apart from the Jewish and Christian Origins Minor. As noted in the last section, any effects of the proposed Certificate on other programs would be positive with respect to enrolment. If the new program is accepted, the Minor will be deleted.

5. Please describe the resources available and committed to the program, both in terms of one-time costs and ongoing operating costs. Will standard or non-standard tuition be assessed for the program? Does the college or school possess the resources required to implement and support the program (faculty teaching, administrative and other support, student funding, classroom space, infrastructure)? Will additional university resources be required, for example, library resources, IT support? Has the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) been involved in any discussions related to resources? Please attach a letter of support outlining the resource commitments that have been made to the new program. Please also ensure the required covering letter, as outlined in the preamble, is attached.

The new Certificate does not require additional resources; nor are additional library, laboratory, information technology, or equipment resources required.

6. Please describe the risks, assumptions, or constraints associated with initiating this new program at this time. Has a risk analysis of this program been conducted, relative to the probable success of the program and those factors that impact on the likelihood of success? What risks are associated with not proceeding with the program at this time?

There are no relevant risks, assumptions or constraints associated with initiating the Certificate at this time.

7. What is the anticipated start date of the program? What considerations apply to the start date?

Since the Certificate Program will be a reformulation of an existing Minor, an anticipated start date of September 2017 is feasible.



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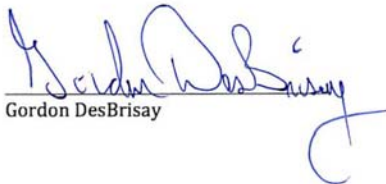
9 Campus Drive
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Email: officeofthedean@artsandscience.usask.ca

To: Dirk de Boer, Chair, Planning and Priorities Committee
From: Gordon DesBrisay, Vice Dean Academic, College of Arts & Science
CC: Alexis Dahl, Director of Programs, College of Arts & Science
Date: 1/12/2017
Re: Development of a Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins

I am pleased to support the development of a Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins, which is envisioned to replace the existing Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins.

The College of Arts & Science is working to provide innovative programming options to meet student need and demand. Replacing the Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins with a certificate program will continue to allow current students to seek recognition in this area of study, but will also open the area to additional students who are not currently attending the University of Saskatchewan, or who are pursuing studies in a College other than Arts & Science.

The formal proposal submitted to our college course challenge process will reflect wide consultation with all the departments involved, and it will then of course be open to feedback from the entire college community.



Gordon DesBrisay



MEMORANDUM

TO: Darrell McLaughlin, associate dean, St. Thomas More (STM) College
Mary Ann Beavis, Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies and faculty member, STM

FROM: Dirk de Boer, chair, planning and priorities committee of Council

DATE: March 7, 2017

RE: **Planning and priorities committee response to a Notice of Intent – Jewish and Christian Origins Certificate**

Thank you once again for attending the planning and priorities committee meeting on February 15, 2017 to present the notice of intent for the certificate of proficiency in Jewish and Christian Origins. The committee understood that the certificate will be a replacement program for the present interdisciplinary minor in this subject area through the addition of a capstone course already offered by the department. Once the program is approved, students would then choose either to complete the minor or transfer to the certificate program.

Projected enrolment is estimated to be 18 students registered each year for the next five years. The increase in enrolment is based on community interest and the change from a minor to a standalone certificate, which will be available to those outside of the College of Arts and Science and the university. As the uptake beyond the college is uncertain and based on perceived interest, the committee suggests that the program be reviewed within three to five years to assess whether enrolment objectives have been achieved and the perceived draw from the community and other students on campus realized.

I wish you the very best as you proceed to develop the full program proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk de Boer".

Dirk de Boer

- c Michael Atkinson, interim provost and vice-president academic
Kevin Flynn, chair, academic programs committee of Council
Russell Isinger, registrar and director of student services, SESD
Alexis Dahl, director, programs office, College of Arts and Science
Gordon DesBrisay, vice-dean academic, College of Arts and Science.



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Report Form for Program Termination

Program(s) to be deleted: Jewish & Christian Origins - Minor

Effective date of termination: May 2018

1. List reasons for termination and describe the background leading to this decision.

The College of Arts and Science is proposing to replace the Minor in Jewish & Christian Origins with a Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish & Christian Origins.

The Minor was created in 2007 in order to configure the offerings of the Department of Religion and Culture in biblical and related studies in a way that would highlight their relevance in western culture and religion, together with related courses from other disciplines (notably History and Archaeology), providing “an interdisciplinary approach to the academic study of the origins, development of and cultural impact of two world religions, Judaism and Christianity, from their beginnings in ancient Israel to the parallel developments of rabbinic Judaism and emergent Christianity subsequent to the first Jewish War of 70 C.E. to Late Antiquity.”

Due to course deletions in History and Archaeology, and drastic changes to the Arts and Science Department of Religion and Culture (now the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies), it has proven difficult to publicize and maintain the Minor. In 2015, these issues were somewhat rectified by a thorough revision of the Minor, with the addition of several History and Philosophy courses, as well as new courses in Religious Studies (RLST 112; RLST 113; and RLST 300; and RLST 237) and relevant language courses (Hebrew, Greek, Latin).

As will be explained below, the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies, the STM Department of Religion and Culture, and St. Thomas More College strongly support the proposal to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program.

The data available to us indicates that 1 student has graduated with the minor, and two others are in the process of taking it. For the reasons mentioned above, the Minor received little attention for several years, but with the revision in 2015, it is receiving more publicity. In particular, the Minor is featured on the STM College website (<http://stmcollege.ca/study-here/classes-programs/minor-jco.php>), since the majority of the Religious Studies courses in the Minor are offered by STM faculty. The advantages of a Certificate Program over a Minor would undoubtedly encourage more student interest, as well as enable interested members of the public to register for the Program and emerge with a tangible academic credential.

A second reason to convert the Minor to a Certificate Program emerged at a recent meeting of our departmental Graduate Committee. Each year, the departmental Graduate Chair receives many inquiries from potential M.A. students who have little or no background in Religious Studies. Unfortunately, when we are asked what the student would need to do to improve their academic background in the discipline, all we can suggest is that they take some undergraduate courses in Religious Studies. The Graduate Committee members agreed that if the Minor in Jewish and Christian Origins were converted into a Certificate, such potential M.A. students could, in a relatively short period of time, gain a grounding in the history, methodology and scope of the discipline that would help the Graduate Committee to assess their aptitude for graduate studies. In particular, the availability of this Certificate would make the M.A. in

Religion and Culture much more accessible for U of S students with majors in other disciplines, as well as for eligible mature students interested in graduate study. Completion of the Certificate would also be an incentive for students to take further courses in Religious Studies and related disciplines.

2. Technical information.

2.1 Courses offered in the program and faculty resources required for these courses.

No courses are unique to this program. RLST 112.3 is required, which is taught by faculty in the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies and the St. Thomas More Department of Religion and Culture.

2.2 Other resources (staff, technology, physical resources, etc) used for this program.

Courses are taught by faculty members in the Departments of Archaeology and Anthropology, History, Linguistics and Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Religion and Culture (STM).

2.3 Courses to be deleted, if any.

No courses will be deleted.

2.4 Number of students presently enrolled.

2 students are currently enrolled in the program.

2.5 Number of students enrolled and graduated over the last five years.

1 student has graduated with this minor (2015); 2 students are currently enrolled.

3. Impact of the termination.

Internal

3.1 What if any impact will this termination have on undergraduate and graduate students? How will they be advised to complete their programs?

No impact on current students. Students will have adequate course options from regular offerings, and can complete this program within a 10 year period from the time they started.

3.2 What impact will this termination have on faculty and teaching assignments?

None. Courses will continue to be offered.

3.3 Will this termination affect other programs, departments or colleges?

No impact on other programs.

3.4 If courses are also to be deleted, will these deletions affect any other programs?

n/a

- 3.5 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop a program to replace this one?

The College of Arts and Science is proposing to replace this program with a Certificate of Proficiency in Jewish & Christian Origins to replace this program.

- 3.6 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop courses to replace the ones deleted?

n/a

- 3.7 Describe any impact on research projects.

No impact.

- 3.8 Will this deletion affect resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology?

No impact.

- 3.9 Describe the budgetary implications of this deletion.

No impact; no change to course offerings.

External

- 3.10 Describe any external impact (e.g. university reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).

Availability of this area of study as a certificate may raise interest among community members, which could favorably impact the reputation of St. Thomas More College, Arts and Science, and the University.

- 3.11 Is it likely or appropriate that another educational institution will offer this program if it is deleted at the University of Saskatchewan?

n/a

Other

- 3.12 Are there any other relevant impacts or considerations?

- 3.13 Please provide any statements or opinions received about this termination.

n/a

(Optional)

4. Additional information. *Programs which have not undergone recent formal reviews should provide additional relevant information about quality, demand, efficiency, unique features, and relevance to the province.*

n/a