**Course Form** (revised 7-2008)

### SUMMARY of Proposed Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept / Program</th>
<th>Liberal Studies / RLS</th>
<th>Course #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Topic in Comparative Literature and Religion</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Title (max. 26 characters incl. spaces)</td>
<td>Topics in Comp. Lit &amp; Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarize the change(s) proposed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Approval/Approvals

Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please type / print name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requestor:</td>
<td>RUTH VANITA</td>
<td>Ruth Vanita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone / email:</td>
<td>4894</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ruth.vanita@mso.unl.edu">ruth.vanita@mso.unl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair/Director:</td>
<td>JUSTMAN</td>
<td>S. Justman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other affected programs:</td>
<td>LS / RLS / ENL / Asia East Asia Minor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How to Add a New Course

Syllabus and assessment information is required (paste syllabus into text below or attach). Course should have internal coherence and clear focus.

**Exact entry** to appear in the next catalog (Specify course abbreviation, level, number, title, credits, repeatability (if applicable), frequency of offering, prerequisites, and a brief description.)

J300 / 342 / Topic in Comp. Lit & Religion / 3 / every year / ENX101 / description attached

Justification: How does the course fit with the existing curriculum? Why is it needed?

# Sample syllabi Attached

Are there curricular adjustments to accommodate teaching this course?

Complete for UG courses. (UG courses should be assigned a 400 number).

Describe graduate increment (Reference guidelines: [http://www.unl.edu/facultysenate/Grad/UG.htm](http://www.unl.edu/facultysenate/Grad/UG.htm))

Fees may be requested only for courses meeting specific conditions determined by the Board of Regents. Please indicate whether this course will be considered for a fee.

If YES, what is the proposed amount of the fee?

Justification:

### How to Delete or Change an Existing Course

Check X all that apply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deletion</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Number Change</td>
<td>From: Level U, UG, G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description Change</td>
<td>Repeatability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Credits</td>
<td>From: Cross Listing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>Is there a fee associated with the course?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Current course information at it appears in catalog (<a href="http://www.unl.edu/catalog">http://www.unl.edu/catalog</a>)</td>
<td>2. Full and exact entry (as proposed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. If cross-listed course: secondary program &amp; course number</td>
<td>ENLT / S &amp; SE Asian minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Graduate increment if level of course is changed</td>
<td>Have you reviewed the graduate increment guidelines? Please check (X) space provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other programs affected by the change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Justification for proposed change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Attached*
Topics in Comparative Literature & Religion

Short description: These courses compare major traditions, texts and trends in two or more world civilizations or cultures. Works of literature and/or philosophy are examined in their historical contexts, and in relation to each other.

Justification: These courses build on 100 and 200 level courses in Liberal Studies and Religious Studies. They are needed because they connect the general Liberal Studies and the Asian Studies and Religious Studies curricula. Six credits under this rubric will be required for the Religious Studies option in the LS major. Some of these courses will be LS capstones. Some (depending on content) will count towards the Asian Studies option, the South and South East Asian Studies Minor and some as Women's Studies Electives.
Spring 2009
Contemplating Life and Death in Two Cultures: Hamlet and the BhagavadGita

LS 124G  ENLT 440

Wednesday 1.10-4.00 p.m. Room: LA138

Dr. Vanita

Office: LA 146A  Tel. 243-4894. Mailbox: in LA101

Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12, Thursday 2-3, and by appointment.
Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

This course begins to explore the epistemological, metaphysical and ethical dimensions of two centrally formative texts from two major world cultures (Modern West; India). Questions examined include the meaning of life and death, the nature of the self and the universe, violence and suffering, knowledge and action, moral responsibility, duty, and human relationships to the non-human world and the divine.

Texts
2. Bhagavad Gita edited and translated, Graham M. Schweig
3. Photocopied materials, provided in class.

Requirements

Students are required to

(a) attend classes regularly. This is vital as the class meets only once a week. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than two absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in a zero for attendance. More than three absences may affect your other grades as well. Leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in person and accepted by me. Four or more absences will result in failing the class.

(b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in class discussions.

(c) write three 1-3 page papers and bring them to class. Topics will be given in advance.
(e) write a long paper (4-6 pages double-spaced typed)

(f) take a mid-term and a final exam

(g) Graduate students must write longer papers – 2-4 and 6-10 pages respectively, and must demonstrate more background reading in their papers (several additional readings are available on reserve in the Mansfield library).

Grades
The long paper will be worth 15%, class attendance and participation 20%, short papers on the texts 5% each, the mid-term exam 25%, the final exam 25%. Handing in papers late without an explanation satisfactory to me will result in a diminished grade.

Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence, and (d) adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class, so that we can arrange the modifications you need.

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes and obtain any hand-outs given in class during your absence.

January 28 Introduction and explanation of syllabus
February 4 BhagavadGita, chapters 1, 2, 3
February 11 BhagavadGita, chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 Paper due in class
February 18 BhagavadGita, chapters 8, 9, 10, 11
February 25 BhagavadGita, chapters 12, 13, 14, 15
March 4 BhagavadGita, chapters 16, 17, 18
March 11 Mid-term Exam
March 18 Hamlet, Act I, scenes i-iv
March 25 No class. I am lecturing at Oxford.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td><em>Hamlet</em>, Act I, scene iv; Act II Paper due in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td><em>Hamlet</em>, Act III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td><em>Hamlet</em>, Act IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td><em>Hamlet</em>, Act V Paper due in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>3.20-5.20 Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring 2009

Same-Sex Unions: International Debates & Histories
LS / ENLT / WS 395

Dr. Vanita

TR 12.40-2.00, LA210

Office: LA 146A Tel. 243-4894 Mailbox: in LA101
Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12, Thursday 2-3, and by appointment.

Texts (prescribed editions required)

1. The Symposium & Phaedrus by Plato (Dover Thrift Edition)
2. Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe by John Boswell (Vintage)
5. Authorizing Marriage?: Canon, Tradition, and Critique in the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions ed. Mark D. Jordan (Princeton UP)
6. Photocopied materials handed out in class.

Goals
Study, discuss and write about the following, employing perspectives from literary studies, philosophy, religious studies and history:

1. the history and literature pertaining to same-sex unions in some major world cultures
2. theological opinions among Hindus, Christians and Jews
3. Legal, philosophical and political debates around the issue in secular democracies
4. The process of legalization in specific places

Requirements
This course entails substantial amounts of reading, some of it fairly abstruse, and also requires upper-division writing skills. If you feel unable to do the reading, please do not take this class. If you have not yet taken a lower-division writing class, you are probably not prepared for this class.

Students are required to
(a) attend classes regularly. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than two absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and participation; more than three absences will result in a zero. Leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence.
Explanations must be communicated to me in person and accepted by me. Acceptable explanations include illness (backed up by a medical certificate) and emergencies, such as major sickness in the family or serious weather conditions, backed up by documentation.
(b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in class discussions.
(c) hand in a typed question on the text at the beginning of every class. Attendance will be given on the basis of these questions. If you are ever unable to hand in a question, it is your responsibility to tell me this and have yourself marked present.
(d) make a 5-10 minute class presentation, on an assigned topic. A sign-up sheet for these presentations will be circulated.
(e) take the mid-term examination, take quizzes, and complete all assignments.
(f) write three short papers (3-4 pages) on topics assigned by me.

Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class; they may be given according to schedule or unexpectedly.
Quizzes can be made up within the week, but not later.

Grades

The mid-term exam will be worth 20%, class attendance and participation 20%, the three papers 10% each, quizzes 20%, the presentation 10%. Papers must be on time; late papers will result in a loss of credit.

Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence, and (d) adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax.

Quizzes, tests and exams may contain both multiple-choice type questions and essay-type questions and are designed to test (a) knowledge of the prescribed texts (b) assimilation of information communicated in class and plenary lectures (c) writing skills (d) analytical skills.

Opportunity for extra credit: The film Maurice will be shown at a time and place to be announced. Attendance will earn you two points.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind in any assignment will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

If you take this course for the English or Liberal Studies majors or the Women's Studies minor, you must earn a C minus to pass; D is a failing grade.

Liberal Studies and English majors and Women's Studies minors cannot take this class Pass/Not Pass However, if you are not one of these, and take this class Pass/Not Pass,
you need to earn at least a C minus to pass since D is not a passing grade for Pass/Not Pass students.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class, so that we can arrange the modifications you need.

Reading Schedule
This schedule is tentative. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes, make up any quizzes, and obtain any hand-outs given in class during your absence.

Page numbers refer to the editions listed in this syllabus (see page 1) and sold in the UC bookstore. Please use these editions, so that we are all on the same page.

January 27  Introduction, and explanation of syllabus

January 29  The Symposium, 1-22.

February 3  The Symposium, 22-end; Lawrence Hemming, “Can I Really Count on You?” in Authorizing Marriage, 68-80. Quiz on The Symposium

February 5  Read “The Tomb of Niankhkhnum and Khnumhotep” on www.egyptology.com (take the tour of the tomb on this website); Same-Sex Love in India, 1-30.


February 12  Extracts from the Bible, Authorizing Marriage, 7-16. Quiz on the Greek materials (excluding Symposium) and Bible

February 17  “Iphis and Iantho”; “Dionysus and Ampelos”; extract from Bret Hirsch, Passions of the Cut Sleeve. Paper due in class.

February 19  Same-Sex Love in India, 31-36; 55-68; 69-71; 72-76; 85-89; 94-99; “Kama Sutra Chapter 9.” Quiz on Same-Sex Love in India.

February 24  Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe, 1-107.

February 26  Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe, 108-161.

March 3  Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe, 162-261.

March 5  Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe, 262-82; 289-344. Quiz on Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe
March 10  Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 7-22; “Inventing Sodom”; “Ganymede.”

March 12  Henry VIII’s law; Sir Edward Cokc, 1628; “Amis and Amile”;
          Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 23-42. Paper due in class

March 17  Same-Sex Love in India, 107-25; 145-56; 161-68; 184-88.

March 19  “Not Paul but Jesus”; Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 333-40.

March 24  Mid-term exam

March 26  No class. I am lecturing at Oxford.

Spring Break

April 7  “The Ladies of Llangollen & Michael Field”; Emily Dickinson; Thoreau.
         Whitman; “Two” by Isaac Bashevis Singer; Amy Lowell; Gertrude Stein.
         Presentations begin

April 9  Same-Sex Love in India, 200-217; 318-24. Quiz on Same-Sex Love in
         India (materials read after Feb 19).

April 14  Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 54-120; 274-77; Evan Gerstmann on
          incest and polygamy; Same-Sex Love in India, 294-97.

April 16  Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 122-28; 135-38; 139-45; 160-69; 182-85; 190-92.

April 21  Authorizing Marriage, 17-41, 151-64. Quiz on Authorizing Marriage

April 23  Shakespeare Sonnets; Same-Sex Love in India, 342-46; “Same Sex
         Weddings, Hindu Traditions and Modern India.”

April 28  Authorizing Marriage, 41-51; 81-101; Conclusion to Love’s Rite.

April 30  Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 239-72; “From Monstrous to
         Miraculous.”

May 5  Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 204-38; “Who Decides?: Marriage Law,
          the State and Mutual Consent”; E.J. Graff, “Conclusion.” Quiz on
          marriage law in the Western World.

May 7  Same-Sex Marriage Pro and Con, 295-302; Same-Sex Love in India, 289-93, 352-55. Paper due in class.