Courses submitted for inclusion in the HMVV Curriculum must already exist and/or have been approved by the Undergraduate Council.

Course title: Caribbean Religions  
Department and Course Number: RELI 30893  
Instructor: Dr. Darren J. N. Middleton

Please indicate below which Learning Outcomes* and Student Action Steps** best represent the focus of your course, keeping in mind that your course only needs to meet one of the Learning Outcomes to be approved. Using the bulleted instructions on page 2 of this form, please provide examples that explain how students will, through the use of Student Action Steps, achieve the Learning Outcomes in your course.

Competency:  
TCU graduates will demonstrate a critical understanding of the role of religion in society, culture, and individual life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes: Indicate one or both as appropriate to your course.</th>
<th>Student Action Steps: Indicate which are to be used in your course or add others you will use to reach the selected Learning Outcome(s).</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will demonstrate familiarity with one or more disciplinary approaches to the study of religion. [ x ]</td>
<td>Students will scrutinize religious traditions historically, textually, philosophically, aesthetically and/or comparatively. [ x ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will recognize the characteristics of an informed, critical approach to the study of religion. [ x ]</td>
<td>Other:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will demonstrate knowledge of one or more major religious traditions through the study of some foundational texts, figures, individuals, ideas or practices. [ ]</td>
<td>Students will identify and explore various dimensions of religion, such as: special leaders and sacred writings, festivals and solemn days, worship and ritual, material culture and community life, personal experience and moral teaching, and beliefs and popular customs. [ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will evaluate the role of the various dimensions of religion in society, culture, and/or individual life. [ ]</td>
<td>Other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Learning Outcomes are statements of what we expect our students to know or be able to do upon completion of a course in that category.

**The Student Action Steps identify the process(es) that will lead to the intended Learning Outcome. As such, Student Action Steps must specify an action(s) to be taken by a student to fulfill a specific Learning Outcome and be reasonable within the context and time frame of the course. The Student Action Steps above are provided as examples of how students might achieve the Learning Outcomes.
• Please provide 2 or 3 examples below that explain how students will, through the use of Student Action Steps, achieve the HMVV Learning Outcomes in your course. Although useful, reference to your syllabus does not substitute for a written explanation on this page. To facilitate understanding, please use language accessible both to faculty who might be outside your discipline as well as to students who might see such language in a course syllabus.

• Please attach a syllabus as a supporting document for your submission. Syllabi for HMVV courses should reflect the Learning Outcomes and the use of Student Action Steps that correlate with HMVV requirements.

• Please attach an additional HMVV course submission form if this course is being submitted for a second HMVV category.

Students achieve Learning Outcome 1 by:

(a) Using seven assigned books – one historical survey of Caribbean religions, one collection of essays on Caribbean religions in visual, material and literary culture, and five contemporary novels – to identify and explore the origins, observable features, and aesthetic treatment(s) of five Caribbean religious traditions (Vodoun, Shamanism, Santería, Rastafarianism, and Obeah); and by

(b) Writing a seven page term paper recognizing and appreciating a selected religion’s contribution in the formation of patterns of belief and behavior in the Caribbean. To achieve a grade C or higher students must incorporate into their paper and, therefore, demonstrate their grasp of the following, selected “characteristics of an informed, critical approach to the study of religion”:

- An understanding of some uses of language in religion, including a satisfactory understanding of basic concepts;

- An ability to explain principal beliefs clearly and to trace a relationship between beliefs and practice; and,

- An ability to recognize some of the significance of an issue raised, to express clearly a personal opinion directly related to it, and to support that opinion with some use of evidence and argument.