



EPC PROPOSAL FORM

Originating Academic Unit: Classics Program (Languages and Literatures, Humanities)

Date Proposal Submitted: 1 September 2016

INSTRUCTIONS: Upon completing the form, submit a hard copy with all appropriate signatures to the Office of the Provost. In addition, email a copy to EPC *via* the Faculty Governance Coordinator, Carol Bautista (facgov@plu.edu).

DEADLINES: Proposals are due Nov. 1 for fall/J-Term of the next academic year, Apr. 1 for the next spring/summer.

For specifics on the processing of each type of proposal, see '2. Flowchart of Usual Procedure for Curriculum Revision' and '5. Checklist for Developing Proposals' in the EPC Manual, found in the [Faculty Handbook](#) (Section III, Part VI).

[] TYPE 1: NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES *[complete shaded sections and provide signatures]*

Check boxes in this section. Then either complete Proposal summary and Catalog/Curriculum Changes sections on the next page and provide chair/dean signatures on final page, or attach a memo with chair/dean signatures.

- Change course number
- Change course title
- Change catalog description (no change in substance of course)
- Delete course with no GenEd element and not required by any major/minor/concentration
- Prerequisite change within the academic unit only
- Catalog correction (editorial)

[] TYPE 2: SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES *[complete all sections, including signatures]*

Submit completed form, including signatures. Be sure to check all boxes that apply.

Note: All substantive changes to pre-existing courses require a change of course number.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modify existing course | <input type="checkbox"/> Change a course's credit hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add permanent GenEd course ⁺⁺ | <input type="checkbox"/> Add GenEd Element to existing course ⁺⁺ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add permanent non-GenEd course ⁺⁺ | <input type="checkbox"/> Delete GenEd course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in major requirement ^{**} | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in minor requirement ^{**} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revise curriculum ^{**} | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in concentration requirement ^{**} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite change involving another unit's course |

[X] TYPE 3: CHANGES REQUIRING FACULTY ASSEMBLY APPROVAL *[complete all sections, including signatures]*

Note: Some of these proposals require the approval of the Board of Regents in addition to the Faculty Assembly. Proposals for a new degree require attachment of the [Institutional Impact Evaluation Form](#).

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Degree ^{**} | <input type="checkbox"/> New Major ^{**} | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Minor ^{**} | <input type="checkbox"/> New Concentration ^{**} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate Major | <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate Minor | <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate Concentration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other change | | | |

^{**} These changes/proposals require completion of the [EPC Curriculum Change Template](#).

⁺⁺ A course syllabus must be submitted with new course proposals.

PROPOSAL

Provide a summary of the proposal.

The Classics program and Religion department propose creating a new minor in Early Christian Studies. The minor leverages existing courses in Classical Studies and Religion to create a clear, coherent course of study that will signal expertise in an inherently interdisciplinary area of Religious studies, i.e. the content and methodology of studying Christianity in the context of the Antique period. The minor builds on PLU's long-standing expertise in engaging students in a critical examination of the Christian faith tradition. It is also excellent preparation for those students interested in entering a seminary or otherwise continuing their education in religion or theology. The minor requires five courses in Classical Studies and Religion as well as proof of competence in Greek or Latin (achievable through proficiency testing or through 4-8 credit hours depending on placement: i.e., equivalent to Option 2). No new courses will be necessary, nor will existing courses need to be offered more frequently.

STATEMENT OF RATIONALE

Provide a statement of rationale or other clarifications. Include information on student learning and outcomes and any General Education Program rationale.

RATIONALE:

- (1) The minor in Early Christian Studies combines courses in Classics, Classical History, and Religion through which students will learn about the language, culture, history, and beliefs of the earliest Christians.
- (2) The minor requires no new courses. The minor relies solely on “bread-and-butter” courses in both departments, i.e., courses that are guaranteed to be taught.
- (3) The minor clarifies and recognizes an existing, coherent course of study which some students already pursue.**
- (4) The minor encourages students to build coherence into their course choices and to consider avenues they might not otherwise have realized existed.
- (5) The minor encourages students who are close to this course of study to take one or two more courses in our departments.
- (6) Interdisciplinary programs make efficient use of existing resources, contribute to the robustness of already small programs in a time of contraction, and at least potentially better serve the existing and projected interests of the student body.
- (7) The Classics program already sends targeted mailings to over 100 high schools on the West Coast that offer Latin. Thirty-six of these have Christian affiliations. Being able to show that our program offers concentrations in areas that are likely to be of interest to students with this background ought to encourage matriculation at PLU.
- (8) The minor signals more clearly to graduate programs one of the particular specialties that PLU students can achieve. Graduate programs most likely to take note are in Classics (especially those focusing on Late Antiquity), Religion, Theology, and Seminaries.

**A note on student interest: Historically, our Greek and Latin language courses have drawn Religion majors who intend to enter a seminary after PLU. Most recently, these have included Louise Buckles and Erika Tobin (2015). The number of these students has been in decline, however, coincident with the decline in the number of Religion majors. This may reflect a change in the demographics of students admitted to PLU, but since Tony Finitsis (current Chair of Religion) regularly brings about 2 students per semester to my office to discuss taking Greek or Latin as a way to augment their major or minor in Religion, I suspect that we are really looking at a problem of clarity. That is, the students do not know early enough in their time at PLU that a foundation in Classical languages, culture, and history is vital to studying Christianity. As a result, they are not able to budget space in their schedules for these courses. A minor in Early Christian Studies should simultaneously draw students to the university and indicate to those already present a way that they might arrange their studies.

What the minor is NOT.

The Minor in Early Christian Studies is NOT a generic minor in Ancient Studies. Its focus is both the content and context of Christianity as it emerged in the Roman Empire and also the methodology of studying Religion, especially as applied to Christianity of this period. For this reason, the courses accepted for the minor have been restricted to highlight this specific focus and coherence.

CATALOG/CURRICULUM CHANGES

Current Catalog Language:

There is currently no catalogue language as this is a new minor.

Proposed Catalog Language: (note changes in Bold)

MINOR IN EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES

The minor in Early Christian Studies combines courses in Classics, Classical History, and Religion through which students will learn about the language, culture, history, and beliefs of the earliest Christians. The program is designed to be interdisciplinary and flexible. In consultation with the program director of Classics and the chair of Religion, a student may elect a course or courses not on the following curriculum. At least two courses (8 semester hours) must be from upper division courses (300 level or above). The minor requires the completion of Greek or Latin 111-112 or its equivalent. Students who are considering entering a seminary are strongly encouraged to take Greek.

In addition, students may not apply more than two courses (8 semester hours) from all other major or minors.

16-24 Credits

- 1.) CLAS/HIST 322 Roman Civilization (4 credits)
- 2.) 3 courses (12 credits) from the following list. Students are recommended to choose courses in consultation with the chair of Religion to create a course of study that best fits their goals.
 - a. RELI 212 Religion and Literature in the New Testament (RC)
 - b. RELI 213 Topics in Biblical Studies (when approved by chair of Religion) (RG)
 - c. RELI 214 Topics in Biblical Studies (when approved by chair of Religion) (RC)
 - d. RELI 220 Early Christianity (RC)
 - e. RELI 222 Medieval Christianity (RC)
 - f. RELI 331 New Testament Studies (RC)
 - g. RELI 332: Jesus and his Early Interpreters (RC)
 - h. RELI 361 Church and History Studies (RC), when taught on a topic pertaining to the ancient world (as RELI 341 for (C) credit; as RELI 351 for (A) credit)
 - i. RELI 390: Topics in Comparative Religion, when taught on a topic pertaining to the ancient world (RG)
 - j. Another course approved by the chair of Religion
- 3.) Proficiency in Greek or Latin through the elementary level, or the equivalent (may be met by examination or by earning a “P” or better in GREK 111-112 or LATN 111-112, or the equivalent in transfer credit)

REVISED in light of EPC feedback, 26 October 2016

For courses ...

Repeatable for credit: Yes, ? times No
Grade Type: Standard Letter Pass/Fail
Anticipated Enrollment: _____
Course Syllabus Attached**: Yes No

**Required for new courses

Does the proposal include the addition to a course of one or more General Education Program elements (GenEd)?

Yes (Check the appropriate boxes below)

If more than one course is proposed, make sure the proposal makes clear which GenEd elements, if any, are proposed for each course.

No

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Perspectives A | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Activity PE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art, Music, Theatre AR | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy PH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Cultural Perspective C | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion: Christian Traditions RC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Honors (100-level) H1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion: Global Religious Traditions RG |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Honors (200-level) H2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Science and Scientific Method SM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Honors (300-level) H3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Investigating Human Behavior, Culture, and Institutions SO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literature LT | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Seminar/Project SR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inquiry Seminar (FYEP) F | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Seminar (FYEP) FW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematical Reasoning MR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Sciences, Mathematics, or Computer Science NS | |

NOTE: Submissions will be forwarded to the General Education Council for its review and recommendation. Diversity courses have specific learning objectives that must be included in the syllabus.

STAFFING & BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Has this proposal been formally approved by at least 2/3 of the full-time teaching faculty in your academic unit?

Yes

No (Indicate why the proposal is being forwarded to EPC)

Does this proposal impact any other academic unit?

Yes (List below and indicate if 2/3 of the full-time faculty in that area support the proposal)

Religion; yes.

No

Does this proposal require the commitment of new or substantially different support services (e.g., Library acquisitions, Information and Technology Services, Wang Center)?

Yes (Explain and indicate if support services have been consulted)

No

The program melds existing courses in Classics and Religion. CLAS/HIST 322 includes research in its ILOs (as do all 300-level courses with the HIST designation). Likewise, the Religion department shares a very strong commitment to research and research papers in their courses. As a result, since those courses have existed for some time, the library already has sufficient materials in its collection to support a cohesive minor in Early Christian Studies.

Explain how the proposed change(s) will be staffed. Revised 2-Year Course Cycle must be attached.

There will be no change in staffing. There will be no change in the frequency of existing courses. The current 2-Year Course Cycles in Classical Studies and History are sufficient to support the minor with ample choice of course offerings for students.

CLAS/HIST 322 is part of the regular offerings of Classics: we run the course every other spring, most recently SP2014, SP2016, and in the coming rotation SP2018. It is a constant in our offerings.

Because of the bread-and-butter nature of the courses involved, sabbatical replacements will NOT affect these courses. In Classics, the ability to teach Roman Civilization (CLAS/HIST 322) is one of the minimum qualifications for all applicants. Under no circumstances would we cancel this course: it reliably brings enrollments of 25-30 students.

Are special budgetary arrangements and funding required? If "no", explain how the proposed changes will be integrated without added personnel or budgetary requirements.

Yes (Explain what types of support will be used to meet the budgetary requirements of the proposed change(s). Include the source(s) of funding, percentage of costs covered, and time frame covered.)

No

The minor makes use of existing course offerings to chart a coherent course of study. It requires no staffing or budgetary additions of any kind.

The administration of the minor will be rolled into the duties of the Classics program director, who will consult the Chair of Religion when appropriate.

NOTE: Budgetary considerations will be reviewed/approved by Dean and Provost.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

[Signature on original form]

(Languages and Literatures)

Department Chair/Program Chair/Associate Dean (Date)

[Signature on original form]

(Religion)

Department Chair/Program Chair/Associate Dean (Date)

[Signature on original form]

Dean (Date)

[Signature on original form]

Provost (Date)

Forwarded with Endorsement
 Forwarded with Reservations