

GRADUATE STUDIES HANDBOOK
Department of Religious Studies
University of Kansas

GENERAL INFORMATION

Graduate study in the Department of Religious Studies may lead to the Master of Arts degree through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School of the University of Kansas. General requirements for admission and completion of the degree are available in the catalogs of the College and the Graduate School. This manual is intended to provide information specific to the M. A. program in religious studies.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

An applicant for admission to graduate study in religious studies is expected to have taken at least four undergraduate courses in religious studies of which one must be in biblical studies, one in the history of religious institutions and movements, and one in religious thought. At least one of the four courses must be in a religion not associated with the Hebrew Bible. Students with undergraduate deficiencies in religious studies will be required to take course work to make them up. Students must take these courses at the rate of at least two courses per semester and with a grade of B or higher, until the undergraduate requirement has been fulfilled. Such course work is not counted as part of the total hours required for the M. A. program.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

"To ensure adequate time for review, complete application materials should be received by July 1 for the fall semester, by December 1 for the spring semester, and by May 1 for the summer session." (Graduate School Catalog, p.9). One may obtain application forms from the Graduate School web site, www.graduate.ku.edu or the Department of Religious Studies, 1300 Oread Ave., 102 Smith Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7615. Please include your name, complete mailing address, and the department name on all application materials.

The graduate application for admission, the graduate application fee, the GRE scores, TOEFL scores and IELTS scores should be sent to the University of Kansas Graduate School. The Graduate School prefers to receive this application material online. However, if it is not feasible for the applicant to submit his/her application electronically, the applicant is requested to send this material to the University of Kansas Graduate School, Graduate Applications, 1450 Jayhawk Blvd, Room 300, Lawrence, KS 66045-7535. All other application materials should be sent to The University of Kansas Department of Religious Studies, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, 1300 Oread Ave., Smith Hall, Lawrence, KS 66045-7615. The application is complete only when we receive the following:

1. The completed application form.
2. One official transcript from each of the former institutions of higher education at which the applicant has studied.
3. Three letters of recommendation from persons who can evaluate the applicant's academic achievement and future promise. Please use the enclosed forms and remember to sign the waiver. Contacting referees is the responsibility of the applicant. Scholarship consideration is indicated on this form by marking the appropriate box.
4. An essay from the applicant which describes the applicant's interests in the academic study of religion, purpose in pursuing the M.A., and expected areas of emphasis in the program.

5. Applications for departmental scholarships, graduate teaching assistantships, or fellowships, where desired. Those seeking Friends of the Department scholarships must check the appropriate box on the Letter of Recommendation forms. The materials needed for departmental nomination for Graduate School fellowships are due by Jan. 10 and must include current GRE scores.

6. Academic resume and any additional evidence of scholastic attainment.

7. Payment of the application fee can be made out to the University of Kansas. The Spring 2004 application fee is \$55.00 for domestic paper and \$45.00 for domestic online; international applications fee are \$60.00 paper and \$55.00 online; and non-degree applicants application fees are \$30.00, irrespective of whether the application is paper or online, domestic or international.

International students must use the International Graduate Student application form, which requires proof of English proficiency and financial resources.

The Department of Religious Studies does not require Graduate Record Examination scores for admission if the applicant's undergraduate grade point average is 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. An applicant whose undergraduate grade point average is below 3.0 must submit official results of the Graduate Record Examination Aptitude Test to complete his or her application. Those applying for university or Graduate School academic awards and funding must submit official results of the G.R.E. aptitude test.

When an application file is complete, the members of the religious studies department committee on studies, who recommend action on the application to the Graduate School, review it. The Graduate School will then notify the applicant concerning admission. Where the committee deems it necessary (especially when an applicant's undergraduate work is from an unaccredited institution), an applicant may be required to take a special examination in order to test the applicant's ability to engage in graduate work in religious studies.

If the applicant is recommended for admission, the recommendation will be:

1. Regular -- fully admitted, all requirements satisfactorily met.
2. Probationary -- if former academic work is not satisfactory, one may be admitted for one semester probationary period, during which time the student must have a B record to continue in the program.
3. Provisional -- Various categories of "provisional" are provided for in the Catalog, allowing for special circumstances in individual academic backgrounds.

In the event that an applicant is deficient in preparation for graduate studies in this field, the committee on studies may specify particular courses, or areas of courses, which must be made up in addition to the regular graduate requirements.

THESIS PROGRAM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Some courses may fulfill and be counted toward more than one requirement.

The thesis graduate program in religious studies leads toward the M. A. and consists of three interrelated but distinct elements:

1. Candidates for this degree must complete 30 credit hours in graduate studies, with the following stipulations:

- (a) Immediately upon completion of 12 hours of course work, a student must, in consultation with an

advisor, declare an Area of Competency in which an examination will eventually be taken and determine whether the student is pursuing a thesis or non-thesis option. The student and advisor plan the remaining course work with the declared Area of Competency in mind and propose a program and supervisory committee to the Department's Committee on Studies for its approval. At this point the supervisory committee determines the need for special competence in languages or research skills appropriate for the Area of Competency declared. In the event that a student wishes to change his or her Area of Competency, such change may be permitted but will likely require the taking of additional courses relevant to the new area and the acquisition of additional linguistic or research skills.

(b) At least 18 credit hours must be in courses in religious studies and the rest in fields related to a declared area of competency.

(c) Course work must include at least twelve hours (four courses) in the declared area of competency.

(d) A student must complete REL 601: Approaches to Religion his or her first fall semester in the program.

(e) A student must complete REL 780: Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781: Seminar in Theories of Religion.

(f) A student must complete one course from each of the following groups:

A. Western Religious Tradition

REL 512: Prophecy, Poetry, and Story in the Hebrew Bible

REL 515: Studies in Early Christian Literature and History

REL 525: Jews and Christians in Greco-Roman Antiquity

REL 526: Jewish History and Literature in the Greek and Roman Periods

REL 530: Christian Origins from the Beginnings to Augustine

REL 531: Studies in Christianity

REL 532: Studies in Islam

REL 535: History of Islam in Africa

REL 539: Greek and Roman Religion

REL 570: Studies in Judaism

REL 732: Seminar in Western Religious Texts: _____

REL 761: Seminar in Western Religious Thought: _____

REL 775: Seminar in Religion and Society in the West: _____

B. Non-Western Religious Tradition:

REL 507: Religion in India

REL 508: Religion in China

REL 509: Religion in Japan

REL 733: Seminar in Eastern Religious Texts: _____

REL 762: Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought: _____

REL 776: Seminar in Religion and Society in Asia: _____

(g) Students must complete nine hours in courses numbered 700 or above, excluding REL 800 (Readings) and REL 899 (Thesis). Courses listed at the 700 level in Religious Studies are seminar courses that include the following elements:

1. at least one session devoted to a discussion of methods of study,
2. the completion of a major research paper of at least 5000-6000 words (approximately 25 pages) in length,
3. an oral defense and presentation of student research during the semester for which the student was first enrolled in the class,

4. a limit of 15 students in the class.

REL 732: Seminar in Western Religious Texts: _____
REL 733: Seminar in Eastern Religious Texts: _____
REL 761: Seminar in Western Religious Thought: _____
REL 762: Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought: _____
REL 771: Religious Movements and Social Change
REL 772: Religion and Modern Social Criticism
REL 773: Seminar in Religion & National Identity: _____
REL 775: Seminar in Religion and Society in the West: _____
REL 776: Seminar in Religion and Society in Asia: _____
REL 777: Seminar in Religion and Gender
REL 780: Seminar in Theories of Religious Experience
REL 781: Seminar in Theories of Religion
REL 787: Ethical Issues in Health Care

2. Students must pass a comprehensive examination, oral and written, over the declared Area of Competency based on a bibliography approved by the supervisory committee.

AREAS OF COMPETENCY

Competency represents an ability to command a broad general knowledge of a field in religious studies. Students are expected to have a wide understanding of the basic facts, methodological issues, and history of research in their area of competency. Students may wish to focus more narrowly on some aspect of that area for their thesis project or for later research. The department permits students to be examined for competency in one of the following areas of competency:

- Religion in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean
- Religion in Asia
- Religion in the Middle East and North Africa
- Religion in Western Europe
- Religion in the USA
- Religious Ethics
- Jewish Studies
- Islamic Studies
- Theories and Methods of Studying Religion

3. Write and successfully defend a thesis which meets the minimum requirements of the department and the graduate school. As many as three hours in Religious Studies 899: "Thesis," may be included in the 30-hour program. The thesis project includes a prospectus for a thesis to the supervisory committee, approval of which can be granted only after the examination is passed.

NON-THESIS PROGRAM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Some courses may fulfill and be counted toward more than one requirement.

The non-thesis graduate program in religious studies leads toward the M.A. and consists of two interrelated but distinct elements:

1. Candidates for this degree must complete 33 credit hours in graduate studies, with the following stipulations:

(a) Immediately upon completion of 12 hours of course work, a student must, in consultation with an

advisor, declare an Area of Competency in which an examination will eventually be taken and determine whether the student is pursuing a thesis or non-thesis option. The student and advisor plan the remaining course work with the declared Area of Competency in mind and propose a program and supervisory committee to the Department's Committee on Studies for its approval. At this point the supervisory committee determines the need for special competence in languages or research skills appropriate for the Area of Competency declared. In the event that a student wishes to change his or her Area of Competency, such change may be permitted but will likely require the taking of additional courses relevant to the new area and the acquisition of additional linguistic or research skills.

(b) At least 21 of the 33 credit hours must be in courses in religious studies and the rest in fields related to a declared area of competency.

(c) Course work must include at least twelve hours (four courses) in the declared Area of Competency.

(d) A student must complete REL 601: Approaches to Religion his or her first fall semester in the program.

(e) A student must complete REL 780: Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781: Seminar in Theories of Religion.

(f) A student must complete one course from each of the following groups:

A. Western Religious Tradition

REL 512: Prophecy, Poetry, and Story in the Hebrew Bible

REL 515: Studies in Early Christian Literature and History

REL 525: Jews and Christians in Greco-Roman Antiquity

REL 526: Jewish History and Literature in the Greek and Roman Periods

REL 530: Christian Origins from the Beginnings to Augustine

REL 531: Studies in Christianity

REL 532: Studies in Islam

REL 535: History of Islam in Africa

REL 539: Greek and Roman Religion

REL 570: Studies in Judaism

REL 732: Seminar in Western Religious Texts:_____

REL 761: Seminar in Western Religious Thought:_____

REL 775: Seminar in Religion and Society in the West:_____

B. Non-Western Religious Tradition:

REL 507: Religion in India

REL 508: Religion in China

REL 509: Religion in Japan

REL 733: Seminar in Eastern Religious Texts:_____

REL 762: Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought:_____

REL 776: Seminar in Religion and Society in Asia:_____

(g) Students must complete nine hours in courses numbered 700 or above, excluding REL 800 (Readings) and REL 899 (Thesis). Courses listed at the 700 level in Religious Studies are seminar courses that include the following elements:

1. at least one session devoted to a discussion of methods of study,
2. the completion of a major research paper of at least 5000-6000 words (approximately 25 pages)in length,
3. an oral defense and presentation of student research during the semester for which the student was first enrolled in the class,
4. a limit of 15 students in the class.

REL 732: Seminar in Western Religious Texts: _____
REL 733: Seminar in Eastern Religious Texts: _____
REL 761: Seminar in Western Religious Thought: _____
REL 762: Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought: _____
REL 771: Religious Movements and Social Change
REL 772: Religion and Modern Social Criticism
REL 773: Seminar in Religion & National Identity: _____
REL 775: Seminar in Religion and Society in the West: _____
REL 776: Seminar in Religion and Society in Asia: _____
REL 777: Seminar in Religion and Gender
REL 780: Seminar in Theories of Religious Experience
REL 781: Seminar in Theories of Religion
REL 787: Ethical Issues in Health Care

2. Students must pass a comprehensive examination, oral and written, over the declared Area of Competency based on a bibliography approved by the supervisory committee.

AREAS OF COMPETENCY

Competency represents an ability to command a broad general knowledge of a field in religious studies. Students are expected to have a wide understanding of the basic facts, methodological issues, and history of research in their area of competency. Students may wish to focus more narrowly on some aspect of that area for their thesis project or for later research. The department permits students to be examined for competency in one of the following areas of competency:

- Religion in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean
- Religion in Asia
- Religion in the Middle East and North Africa
- Religion in Western Europe
- Religion in the USA
- Religious Ethics
- Jewish Studies
- Islamic Studies
- Theories and Methods of Studying Religion

ADVISORS

Each student is assigned an advisor, normally one who is a specialist in the student's area of competency. The assignment is normally made by the director of graduate studies in consultation with the student and the prospective advisor.

It is expected that the student will consult with the advisor before enrolling each semester; the advisor is responsible for approving the semester enrollment schedule. In the event that the advisor is not available, the student should consult with the director of graduate studies.

Immediately upon completion of 12 hours of course work a student must choose an advisor, declare an area of competency in which an examination will eventually be taken and determine whether a student is planning a thesis or non-theses option. This advisor will work with the student in developing a program of study, in preparing the bibliography for the examination in the area of competency, and as an intermediary between the student and the committee on studies. He or she will also chair the committee preparing and administering the examination in the area of competency and chair the thesis committee. Advisors may be changed during the progress of the student's program, and both students and advisors are free to suggest such changes to the director of graduate studies.

TRANSFER OF COURSE CREDIT

The graduate school permits the transfer of graduate credit from other accredited institutions, up to a total of six semester hours (see restrictions to such transfers found in the Graduate Studies Catalogue). (Bachelor's degree graduates from the University of Kansas are permitted transfer of eight hours.) The hours may be used only when the M.A. is completed within six years of the time the credit was given. Application for such transfer must be made by the student and her or his advisor to the committee on studies (normally such applications are not made until after 12 hours of course work at KU have been successfully completed); if the committee approves, the application will be forwarded to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division for approval.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Immediately upon the completion of 12 hours of course work a student will, in consultation with her or his advisor, declare an area of competency in which an examination will be taken and in which the thesis will be written. The student is then responsible for filing all appropriate forms. A proposed program of study approved by the student's advisor will be submitted to the studies committee for approval. This program will indicate the area of competency, detail the course work completed and yet to be taken, and nominate a supervisory committee consisting of the advisor and two other faculty members, only one of which may be from outside the Department of Religious Studies. The remaining course work will be planned around the area of competency. The supervisory committee supervises both the examination and thesis. Some changes may take place in the course work actually taken after the program has been approved. Changes of area of competency, supervisory committee, and courses related to the area of competency must be submitted to the committee on studies for approval. In the event that a student wishes to change his or her area of competency, such change may be permitted but will likely require the taking of additional courses relevant to the new area and the acquisition of additional linguistic or research skills. The approved program of studies and supervisory committee is recorded and placed in the student's file and all changes will be duly noted.

READINGS COURSES

In-depth study in a subject not available through normal classroom courses may be pursued with the appropriate graduate faculty member through courses designated as Readings (Religious Studies 800). The total number of credits taken in Readings (Religious Studies 800) and Thesis (Religious Studies 899) combined may not exceed ten (10) hours except when the excess over ten hours is added to the total number of hours required for the degree. A readings course is not to be used as a substitute for a regular course available during the student's planned program of study. In order to count toward the Master of Arts degree, A REL 800 course must receive approval from the Committee on Studies at least two weeks prior to the student's enrollment in the course. The student should submit to the Committee on Studies a proposal for the readings course that includes (1) a brief statement on the nature (e.g., contents, requirements) of the readings course and a preliminary bibliography; (2) an academic rationale for the readings course, including an explanation of how the readings course fits into the student's overall program of study; (3) the endorsement of the instructor (and adviser, if different).

INCOMPLETES

The letter "I" is granted to a graduate student only when some part of the work has for good reason not been done while the remainder has been satisfactorily completed. It is current University policy that an "I" will remain the recorded grade for such a course until the instructor has indicated that the work is completed by the student and submits an alternative grade. Students are encouraged not to carry an "Incomplete" for more than one semester. If the material has not been submitted to change the grade in a reasonable length of time, the faculty member may require further work in addition to that which was

previously not submitted. All incompletes not specifically related to the thesis topic must be completed before scheduling the examination in the area of competency.

THE EXAMINATION IN THE AREA OF COMPETENCY

The student demonstrates competency in an area by means of an examination consisting of both written and oral portions. No later than the tenth class day of the semester in which the student plans to take the examination, the student will submit to the faculty advisor and the supervisory committee a proposed bibliography covering the area of specialization and over which the student proposes to be examined by the supervisory committee. Each student must pass a comprehensive examination, oral and written, over the declared Area of Competency based on a bibliography, of about 20-25 books in addition to appropriate articles, initially generated by the student then revised and approved by the advisor and supervisory committee. Two thirds of the bibliography should be relevant to the area generally and one third should reflect the student's special interests within that area. The committee will amend and/or approve the bibliography, prepare the examination, and determine what, if any, materials will be available to the student during the examination. The written portion of the examination will include up to one hour to prepare for writing, and three hours for writing the examination. Within approximately one week of the written portion of the examination, the supervisory committee will schedule a one hour oral examination over the content of the written portion.

The supervisory committee will determine whether the student has passed or failed the examination. Examinations will normally be given only twice a year, in November and April; they may be repeated once at a time agreed upon by the student and the supervisory committee.

THESIS OPTION

The thesis provides an opportunity for the student to pursue a particular topic or problem in depth, integrating various relevant aspects of the candidate's academic background. The thesis gives the student additional experience with the identification, organization, pursuit and presentation of a research problem. Further, it demonstrates the student's degree of proficiency for scholarly research and contribution to the accumulation and dissemination of knowledge and information. Students intending to pursue further graduate studies are advised to select the thesis option.

More specifically, the thesis will demonstrate a developing competence to do academic research in the field of religion, including:

--bibliographic: sources for a study;

--methodological: approaches appropriate to the study;

--interpretive: ability to evaluate, correlate, construct and test, to make judgments consistent with data, texts, ideas, etc.

Early in the development of the thesis project, it is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the thesis regulations of the graduate school. Copies of those regulations are available in the department office, as well as in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division office, (102 Strong Hall).

THE THESIS PROSPECTUS

When preparing to work on a thesis, the student shall submit a prospectus (in 3 copies) to the student's advisor, for approval by a thesis committee composed of the advisor and two other graduate faculty members selected by the advisor and student in consultation. (One of the committee members may be from another department.) The advisor shall have major responsibility for supervision of the thesis, and will notify the director of graduate studies of approval of a thesis prospectus. A copy of the approved

prospectus is to be filed with the director of studies. The student will be provided written notice of approval of the prospectus, to be signed by the advisor and the director of graduate studies.

The Prospectus shall include:

1. A precise statement of the problem to be studied.
2. A statement about the significance of the study.
3. A brief survey of the literature available on the topic.
4. A statement of the method to be used in the study.
5. A description of limitations and delimitations involved in the study.
6. A brief statement regarding expectations of findings.
7. Procedure of the study -- i.e., chapter progression.
8. An Outline, i.e., table of contents, with chapter titles and subheadings (tentative).
9. Bibliography.
10. Instruments used for measurement -- e.g. questionnaires.

The preceding are to be considered tentative in prospectus form. The bibliography will of course be incomplete at this stage.

COMPLETION OF THE THESIS AND EXAMINATION

The project is completed when the thesis committee has given approval of the completed thesis and a successful oral examination is conducted, in which the student defends the completed study and discusses its findings with the faculty committee. The date for the examination must be scheduled with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences graduate school by the advisor, the director of graduate studies, or the department chair at least two weeks prior to the date of the examination. After the examination is satisfactorily completed (passed), three (3) copies are to be prepared for final submission. Two unbound copies are deposited by the student with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division to be transmitted to the graduate school, according to its regulations, after being signed by the proper persons. One additional bound copy is to be deposited with the Department of Religious Studies for its William J. Moore Reading Room.

APPROVAL OF PRESENTATIONS LISTING UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION

The written consent of the student's academic advisor is required in order for a graduate student to list affiliation with the university in submitting papers or other materials for publication, presentation, performance or exhibition. That statement of consent shall be placed in the student's academic file.

SPECIAL NOTE

The above policies and procedures are intended to provide the necessary structure which undergirds a quality graduate degree program. It is hoped that they are specific enough to sufficiently inform the student of the expectations of the program. It is also the intention of the Department faculty to be flexible in those ways in which such flexibility is feasible and continuity of quality is assured. Wherever a student is confused, or finds hardship in rules, he or she is encouraged to inquire of the advisor, the director of graduate studies, or the committee on studies, and, where necessary, to petition for an exception to the rules.

GRADUATE FACULTY IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

JONATHAN BOYARIN received a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1998, after receiving his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the New School for Social Research in New York in 1984. His research and writing combine his backgrounds in anthropology and Yiddish culture to point toward new pathways in the study of

Jewish culture. He is currently working on a study and translation from Yiddish of the last book published by Abraham Joshua Heschel, while completing a manuscript on the relation between Jewish difference in late medieval Europe and the dynamics of the colonial encounter in Latin America.

SERGEY DOLGOPOLSKI holds a Joint Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from UC Berkeley and Graduate Theological Union, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophical Sciences from the Russian Academy of Sciences. He specializes in the Talmud, Interpretation, and Jewish Thought both classical and contemporary. He authors a monograph *Rhetoric of the Talmud in the View of Post-Structuralism* (1998, St-Petersburg and Jerusalem, in Russian). His new book *What is Talmud? The Art of Disagreement* is forthcoming with the Fordham University Press. He has joined KU Lawrence as an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies beginning this Fall. He has previously taught Jewish Studies at UC Davis, University of San Francisco, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, and conducted research in Jewish Studies as Mellon Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer at UC Berkeley.

WILLIAM LINDSEY is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. Professor Lindsey joined the Department of Religious Studies in the fall of 2002. Lindsey received the Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. His recent papers include, "Fertility and Pleasure: Ritual and Sexual Values in Tokugawa Japan," given at the 7th Annual SSRC Japan Studies Dissertation Workshop in California, and "Ritualizing Values: Fertility Discourse and Marriage Rites in Tokugawa Japan". In the spring of 2002, Lindsey was awarded a grant from the Japan Iron and Steel Graduate Fellowship.

TIMOTHY MILLER is a historian of religion in America whose special interest focuses on new and alternative religions and the history of communitarianism. He received a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Kansas. Among the books he has authored are *Following In His Steps: A Biography of Charles M. Sheldon*, *The Hippies and American Values*, *American Communes 1860-1960: A Bibliography*, *The Quest for Utopia in Twentieth-Century America*, and his most recent book *The 60s Communes: Hippies and Beyond*.

ROBERT N. MINOR teaches courses on religion in South Asia, method and theory in religious studies, and religion and gender. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, has done research in Europe, the Near East, India, and Taiwan, and came to KU in 1977. His research concentrates on Indian religious thought and texts in relationship to modern India, and religion, gender and sexuality. Among his publications are seven books, three of which were published simultaneously in the United States and India: *Sri Aurobindo: The Perfect and the Good*, *Bhagavadgita: An Exegetical Commentary*, and *Modern Indian Interpreters of the Bhagavad-gita*. His most recent books include *The Religious, The Spiritual, and The Secular: Auroville and Secular India*; and *Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human*.

PAUL MIRECKI earned his Th.D. at Harvard University (1986) and has taught previously at the University of Michigan and at Albion College. His research interests focus on ancient Mediterranean religions, languages, and archaeology. He is the founding chair of the "Manichaeic Studies Group" (AAR/SBL) and has initiated major research projects in museums in Berlin, London, Oxford, and Ann Arbor. He has convened several international conferences, has written and published numerous articles, has edited several books and recently published *Gospel of the Savior, A New Ancient Gospel* with Charles Hedrick.

MARGARET J. RAUSCH joined the faculty in 2001. She earned her Ph.D. from The Free University of Berlin in 1997 where she taught for six years. Her areas of interest include Islamic history, Sufism, Women in Islam, popular religious expression in Islam and Muslim women singers. She has done fieldwork in Morocco and Egypt. Her publications include *Bodies, Boundaries and Spirit Possession: Moroccan Women and the Revision of Tradition* (Bielefeld: 2000). Her current recent focuses are on Moroccan Sufi women's orders.

ROBERT SHELTON came to this faculty in 1967 and teaches in the fields of religious ethics, religion and society, and conflict and peace studies. He received his Ph.D. from Boston University and holds a joint appointment in Communication Studies. He served as the University Ombudsman from 1985 to 2003. Recent research interests include ethical issues in health care delivery and the ethical concept of justice in relation to conflict management, with papers and lectures delivered to national, regional and state-wide audiences. He is the author of the book *Loving Relationships* and chapters on "Bioethics in Methodist Traditions" in *Theological Developments on Bioethics*. His most recent journal article was "The Institutional Ombudsman: A University Case Study," in the *Negotiation Journal*.

DANIEL B. STEVENSON joined the faculty in 1992. He received his Ph.D. at Columbia University (1987) and has taught and served as a research fellow at the University of Michigan Institute for the Study of Buddhist Literature, and as Numata visiting professor at Leiden University (Netherlands). His area of specialty is Chinese and Japanese Buddhism, East Asian religions, and ritual studies. He has co-authored a book from Hawaii University Press (co-authored with Neal Donner) titled, The Great Calming and Contemplation: An Annotated Translation of the Synopsis Chapter of Chih-i's *Mo-ho chih-kuan*, and a second book from Oxford University Press, Hoofprint of the Ox: The Practice of Chan Buddhism as Taught by a Modern Chinese Master. He has published various articles on Chinese Buddhist ritual and institutional history, as well as numerous entries and essays for sourcebooks on Chinese religion (Princeton University press and Penguin Press).

PAUL ZIMDARS-SWARTZ received a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School in 1977. He has been teaching introductory courses in religion for several years and officially joined the faculty with a half-time appointment and more teaching responsibilities in the fall of 1994. His areas of specialization are nineteenth century German philosophy and theology, the German Reformation, and modern theories of religion.

SANDRA ZIMDARS-SWARTZ joined the faculty in 1979 from Claremont Graduate School, where she received her Ph.D. and was a visiting lecturer in Church history. Her field is the history of Western religious thought and symbol, with concentrations in women and religion, religious symbolism, and popular religion, particularly devotion to the Virgin Mary. She is author of *Encountering Mary: From La Salette to Medjugorje* (Princeton). She is full time in the Humanities & Western Civilizations Program.

MICHAEL ZOGRY joined the Religious Studies Department as a lecturer in Spring 2003 and as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2003. His specialty is Native American religious tradition and methodology of the history of religions. He wrote the "Native America Religions Since 1600" for the Encyclopedia of Religion in the South and "North American Indians: Southeast Woodland Traditions," for *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, Revised Edition, Macmillan Publishing, March 2005.

TIMETABLE OF STUDENT PROGRESS THESIS OPTION

IMMEDIATELY UPON THE COMPLETION OF 12 HOURS OF CLASSES:

A student must consult with an advisor, declare an area of competency for the comprehensive examination and thesis, and propose a program of study and supervisory committee to be approved by the committee on studies.

AFTER COMPLETING 27 HOURS OF COURSE WORK AND BEFORE SCHEDULING EXAMINATIONS:

A student should check his or her ARTS form to see that all requirements have been met including required undergraduate hours in religious studies, distribution of courses, departmental courses required, and

language competency where necessary. Thereupon the student should file an Application For Completion of Degree Card with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division.

GRADUATION APPLICATION:

A student with reasonable hope of graduation should file early in the semester during which graduation is expected (or in the Spring Semester if graduation is expected in the Summer) an Application For Completion of Degree Card, obtainable from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division.

SCHEDULING EXAMINATIONS:

Oral and written examinations are normally given only twice a year: in November and April. Preparation for them should be made well in advance of those dates. The student's responsibility is to meet with an advisor, propose a bibliography over which to be examined, circulate that bibliography for approval by the supervisory committee, and revise the bibliography as instructed by the committee. An official report on the successful completion of examinations is to be filed by the advisor with the director of graduate studies or department chair.

AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF BOTH THE WRITTEN AND ORAL EXAMINATIONS:

A student must submit a thesis prospectus to the student's advisor for approval by the thesis committee selected by the advisor and student in consultation. A copy of the approved prospectus is to be filed with the director of graduate studies or department chair.

BEFORE SCHEDULING DEFENSE OF THE THESIS:

The date for the thesis examination must be scheduled with the Graduate School by the advisor through the director of graduate studies or the department chair at least two weeks prior to the date of the examination. The thesis and its defense counts as the official "Final General Examination in the Major Subject" required by the Graduate School of all candidates for the degree of Master of Arts.

REPORTING THE DEFENSE:

After the defense of the thesis, an official report indicating its success or failure is filed with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division by the advisor through the director of graduate studies or the department chair.

AFTER SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF THE THESIS:

After the thesis examination is satisfactorily completed three copies are to be prepared for final submission. Two unbound copies are deposited by the student with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division. One additional bound copy is to be deposited with the Department of Religious Studies for its William J. Moore Reading Room.

THE M.A. PROGRAM MUST BE COMPLETED IN 7 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF FIRST ENROLLMENT.

TIMETABLE OF STUDENT PROGRESS NON-THESIS OPTION

IMMEDIATELY UPON THE COMPLETION OF 12 HOURS OF CLASSES:

A student must consult with an advisor, declare an area of competency for the comprehensive examination and propose a program of study and supervisory committee to be approved by the committee on studies.

AFTER COMPLETING 33 HOURS OF COURSE WORK AND BEFORE SCHEDULING EXAMINATIONS:

A student should check his or her ARTS form to see that all requirements have been met including required undergraduate hours in religious studies, distribution of courses, departmental courses required, and language competency where necessary.

GRADUATION APPLICATION:

A student with reasonable hope of graduation should file early in the semester during which graduation is expected (or in the Spring Semester if graduation is expected in the Summer) an Application For Completion of the Degree, obtainable from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division.

SCHEDULING EXAMINATIONS:

Oral and written examinations are normally given only twice a year: in November and April. Preparation for them should be made well in advance of those dates. The student's responsibility is to meet with an advisor, propose a bibliography over which to be examined to the advisor, and revise the bibliography as instructed by the committee.

The date for the oral and written examinations must be scheduled by the advisor with the Graduate School through the director of graduate studies or department chair at least two weeks prior to the date of the examination. This examination over the area of competency counts as the official "Final General Examination in the Major Subject" required by the Graduate School of all candidates for the degree of Master of Arts.

REPORTING THE ORAL EXAM:

An official report on the successful or unsuccessful completion of examinations is to be filed with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Division by the advisor with the director of graduate studies or department chair.

THE M. A. PROGRAM MUST BE COMPLETED IN 7 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF FIRST ENROLLMENT