UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON -- NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE (check one):  Arts and Sciences  X  Business  Education

Proposal Submitted By: Caitlin Finlayson  Date Prepared: October 1, 2014
Course Title: Sacred Spaces
Department/discipline and course number*: GEOG 335
*This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

Number of credits proposed: 3  Prerequisites: None
Will this be a new, repeatable “special topics” course? (Do you want students to be able to take this new course more than once if the topic changes?)  NO  X  YES

Date of first offering of this new course: FALL SEMESTER, year  X  Spring 2017
Proposed frequency of offering of the course: Every other year
List the faculty who will likely teach the course: Caitlin Finlayson
Are ANY new resources required?  NO  X  YES  Document in attached impact statement

This new course will be (check all that apply):
Required in the major  General Elective  X  General Education**
Elective in the major  X  General Education**

**AFTER the new course is approved, a separate proposal must be sent to the General Education Committee.

Catalog Description:
An examination of the intersection of geography and religion with an emphasis on sacred spaces. The course explores how religions understand, create, and give meaning to sacred space, and includes a review of major theories and methods in the geographic study of religion.

COURSE HISTORY
Was this course taught previously as a topics or experimental course?  YES  X  NO
Course Number and Title of Previous Course  Semester Offered  Enrollment
GEOG 410V-01 Sacred Spaces  Spring 2013  15

X  CHECK HERE if the proposed course is to be equated with the earlier topics or experimental offerings. This means that students who took the earlier “topics” course will only be able to take the new course if they made a C- grade or lower in the earlier course.

NOTE: If the proposed course has not been previously offered as a topics or experimental course, explain in the attached rationale statement why the course should be adopted even though it has not been tried out.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:
1. Rationale Statement (Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. as needed.)
3. Sample Syllabus

Department Chair Approval:__________________________  Date:10/8/2014
CCC Chair Approval:__________________________  Date:________________
UCC Chair Approval:__________________________  Date:________________

New Course Proposal Cover Sheet (July 2013)
New Course Proposal: Sacred Spaces

Rationale Statement
The Department of Geography has offered a special topics course on Sacred Spaces in the Spring of 2013 and will offer it again in the Spring of 2015. There continues to be student demand for this course, and we would like to make it a permanent offering. Currently, the Department of Geography has limited course offerings in the specific area of cultural geography at the 300-level. Typically, students who are interested in cultural geography can take regional courses, courses on urban planning or development, or qualitative methodology courses, but there are no courses that specifically examine the area of religion. The geography of religion represents my primary area of research; I have conducted numerous past research projects and continue to conduct research in this area. As such, it would be beneficial to the department, interested students, and myself, to offer a course that includes cutting-edge research in a specific area of cultural geography. Furthermore, the topic of sacred spaces presents an accessible entry point for students to explore geographic theory and methodology.

Impact Statement
No new resources would be required to offer this course. No new acquisitions of library materials or technology would occur. The library already has access to the journal articles needed by the course, such as those published in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers.

There are no space demands, as GEOG 335 is taught by existing faculty in a rotation with other classes.

Sample Syllabus
See attached syllabus.
Sacred Spaces
GEOG 335
TR xx-xx
Monroe Hall xxx

Contact Information
Instructor: Caitie C. Finlayson, Ph.D.
Office: Monroe Hall 330
Email: cfinlay@umw.edu
Office Hours: TR xx-xx and by appointment

Description
This course explores the intersection of geography and religion with an emphasis on the sacred spaces we find on our landscape. We will examine how religions understand, create, and give meaning to sacred space. We will explore the process of sacralization, that is, the process by which sacred spaces are given meaning. We will also investigate the geographic context of the lived religious experience and the impact of place on religious life. This course will provide a greater appreciation and understanding of the geography of religious traditions in our world.

Objectives
At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Develop an understanding of the geographic location of the major religious traditions in the world today, in terms of their origins, spread, and modern extent.
- Describe environmental, cultural, and geographical factors that might help to explain varying conceptions of sacred space, as well as current events and contemporary issues.
- Understand how religious traditions have shaped the cultural landscape.
- Describe sacralization and the process by which sacred spaces are created, recreated, and contested.
- Understand the role theology in developing an understanding of space, and similarly the role of place in developing a theological outlook.
- Develop a deeper, experiential understanding of religious practices and the role of sacred space in mediating these experiences.
- Find timely and credible information about issues concerning geographers of religion and be able to use it in your own life and work.

Required Materials

Martel, Yann. Life of Pi. Mariner. ISBN: 9780547848419 (Any edition is acceptable.)

You will also be responsible for material from additional journal and news articles, films, and other assigned readings.
Lectures, reading, and study guides
You are responsible for material in lecture, text, films, and any other supplementary materials. Please do not ask me to make copies of the notes for you. You are responsible for retrieving any notes from classes that you have missed. In general, I will post the PowerPoint presentations from the lectures, but not lecture notes.

About the Readings
This is an upper-level geography course, and as such, it involves a significant amount of both reading and writing. You can expect to read around 100 pages per week depending on the difficulty. As explained below, you are expected to keep up with the readings each week and come to each class prepared with an outline of the assigned reading or readings. Completing the readings will foster a classroom environment where we can critically engage the material and examine it through a geographic lens.

If you find yourself struggling to keep up with the readings, consider adjusting your reading strategy, perhaps taking notes on main ideas and creating possible discussion questions after you’ve completed the reading. You might also consider highlighting passages of text that you find particularly interesting as you read and then returning to these passages when you create your outline. Please come see me if you continue to have trouble understanding the material or completing the readings on time.

Course Policies
Attendance
Attendance is not required; however it is strongly advised and most of your grade will be based upon participation in the course. There will be NO make-up opportunities for in-class assignments, discussions, or other projects that contribute to your participation grade.

Classroom Etiquette
In order to create an environment where students are able to interact and learn it is imperative the all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices be turned OFF (not on silent mode or vibrate). Text messaging is not allowed during class. Laptops should only be used for note-taking purposes. Students not obeying this policy will be asked to leave class. If you are expecting an important phone call you are to notify me during the beginning of the class. Additionally, because the subject of religion is often contentious, all students are asked to be respectful of other students’ religious or irreligious views during class.

Canvas website and email
Please be sure that you have access to the Canvas course website. You will need your UMW NetID and password to access this site. In Canvas, I can only send email to your UMW account. If you use a different account, it is your responsibility to set up your UMW account to forward to your preferred email.

Religious Days
If you wish to participate in religious day activities that interfere with scheduled class days or assignments, please inform me during the first week of class.
Assignments and Responsibilities
Evaluation for this course will be through:
- The student’s role as a discussant, in-class participation, outlines and short assignments (50%)
- Individual field trip and report paper (20%)
- Research paper: outline and references (5%)
- Research paper (25%)

Grading Scale
A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (72-76), C- (70-71)
D+ (66-69), D (60-65), F (0-59)

Final Grades will follow the breakdown listed above and grades will not be rounded. That means that 89.9% earns a B+ even though it is just one point from an A. There has to be a cutoff at some point, and that means that some students barely make a grade, but others barely miss it. Do your best in ALL of your work so that you don’t fall just short of your goal.

Student Discussants
All students must make a detailed outline for each of their weekly assigned readings. Many of our class meetings will involve a lecture and class discussion of assigned readings. Several students will serve as “discussants” who will be called upon to lead the discussion of one or more of the assigned readings. Discussants will not be pre-assigned, which means you should come to class each day assuming you will serve as a discussant.

Your role as a discussant is to:
- Concisely summarize the article or book chapter you are given;
- Draw connections between the assigned readings;
- Critically analyze the article or book chapter and pose discussion questions for the class;
- Serve as the leader in this discussion.

Your role as a discussant, in addition to your in-class participation, is the most important component of your final grade. Therefore, detailed outlines and notes made from your readings are strongly recommended, as they will facilitate fruitful discussions of the assigned readings. I will also periodically collect student outlines. This will be unannounced so be prepared every time we meet. Outlines and notes will also come in handy for your final research paper!

Individual Field Trip and Report Paper
The individual field trip and report paper will require you to visit a house of worship in Fredericksburg or the surrounding area that you have not visited previously and is not closely related to your own faith. You will then write a minimum of THREE pages about both the geography of the house of worship as well as your own experience. You will be provided with a more detailed description and set of instructions for this assignment.

Research Paper
The research paper is worth a total of 30% of your grade, with 5% for the outline and references, and 25% for the research paper itself. The paper should be 8-10 and represent scholarly research on the geography of a religious tradition of your choosing. You will be provided with a more detailed description and set of instructions for this assignment.

New Course Proposal Cover Sheet (July 2013)
**Honor Code Statement**

The **Honor Code** will be followed, although students are expected to work together during in-class group activities. Work that is written up and handed in for a grade should be your own; anything beyond general knowledge should be cited. **Please pledge your work accordingly.**

**Disability Statement**

The Office of Disability Resources has been designated by the University of Mary Washington as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodations. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise.

If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Resources and have reasonable accommodation needs, I will be happy to help you contact them. The office will require appropriate documentation of a disability. Their phone number is 540-654-1266. The office is located in Lee Hall, Room 401.
**Schedule**
I will announce any changes to the schedule in class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to ask another student if changes have been made.

Readings in listed indicate the deadline for having read, outlined, and prepared a discussion for that section. Discussions of the material could take place at any time on or after that date.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week One</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| Tuesday  | Introduction to the Geography of Religion | Buttmer: Afterword: Reflections on Geography, Religion, and Belief Systems (pp. 197-202)  
Winchester: Qualitative Research and Its Place in Human Geography (pp. 1-22)  
Grimaldi and Engel: Why Descriptive Science Still Matters (pp. 646-647) |
| Thursday | Methods in the Geographic Study of Sacred Space | |

**Week Two**

| Tuesday | Ancient understandings of sacred space | Stump: "Faith, Place, Space" (pp. 16-31)  
Finlayson: Traditional Sacred Sites of Oahu, Hawaii (pp. 1-24) |
| Thursday | Geographic Context and Sacred Landscape of the Major World Religions Part 1: Hinduism | Stump: pp. 113-121  
Ferber: Critical Realism and Religion (pp. 176-180) |

**Week Three**

| Tuesday | Part 2: Buddhism | Stump: pp. 133-159 |
| Thursday | Part 3: Judaism | Stump: pp. 121-133  
*Discuss Field Trip Report Paper* |

**Week Four**

| Tuesday | Part 4: Christianity | Stump: pp. 159-188  
Kong: Geography and Religion - Trends and Prospects (pp. 1-27) |
| Thursday | Part 5: Islam | Stump: pp. 188-216  
Peach and Gale - Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs in the New Religious Landscape of England (pp. 469-490) |

**Week Five**

| Tuesday | Sacralization: Part 1 | Foote: Shadowed Ground - Chapter 1 (pp. 1-35) |
| Thursday | Sacralization: Part 2 | Ivakhiv: Toward a Geography of “Religion” (pp. 169-175)  
Holloway and Valins: Placing religion and spirituality in geography (pp. 5-9) |
### Week Six

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Forms of Sacred Space: Part 1</td>
<td>Stump: Chapter 5 (pp. 301-329)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Forms of Sacred Space: Part 2</td>
<td>Movie: <em>Inside Mecca</em></td>
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### Week Seven

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Reading</th>
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| Tuesday| Sacred and Profane: Making the Ordinary Extra-Ordinary: Part 1 | Holloway: Make-believe (pp. 1961-1974)  
|         |                                                             | Eliade: *The Sacred and the Profane* (pp. 161-168)           |
| Thursday| Sacred and Profane: Making the Ordinary Extra-Ordinary: Part 2 | Field Trip and Report Paper DUE                             |

### Week Eight

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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### Week Nine

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Discussion of Research Paper</td>
<td><em>Writing Center Talk: Writing a Research Paper</em></td>
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|        |                                | Finlayson: Spaces of faith: incorporating emotion and spirituality in geographic studies (pp. 1763-1778)  
|        |                                | Holloway: Legend-tripping in spooky spaces (pp. 618-637)     |
| Thursday| Multiplicitous Spaces          |                                                              |

### Week Ten

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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| Tuesday| Sacred Space and Sexuality       | Kwan: From oral histories to visual narratives: re-presentation of the post-September 11 experiences of the Muslim women in the USA (pp. 653-669)  
|         |                                  | Rose: More on 'Big Things' (pp. 334-349)                      |
| Thursday| Sacred Space and Ritual          | Boivin: Grasping the Elusive and Unknowable (pp. 266-287)   |

### Week Eleven

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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sacred Space as Contested Space</td>
<td>Stump: pp. 349-363</td>
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<td>Kong: Negotiating conceptions of 'sacred space' (pp. 342-358)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>NO CLASS - Work on your research paper</td>
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### Week Twelve

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| Tuesday| Sacred Space in America: Part 1   | Zelinsky: *Uniqueness of the American Religious Landscape* (pp. 565-585)  
|        |                                   | Finlayson and Mesev: *A Qualitative Study of Religious Experiences in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (pp. 1-20) |
| Thursday| Sacred Space in America: Part 2   |                                                              |

New Course Proposal Cover Sheet (July 2013)
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<th>Week Thirteen</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| Tuesday 4/9   | Modern Sacred Landscapes: Part 1 | Kong: Religion and technology (pp. 404-413)  
Stump: Imagined Spaces (pp. 345-349)  
Introduction: Theorizing and Studying Religion (pp. 165-168) |
| Thursday 4/11 | Modern Sacred Landscapes: Part 2 | |

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<th>Week Fourteen</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4/16</td>
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<td>Thursday 4/18</td>
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<th>Week Fifteen</th>
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<td>Tuesday 4/23</td>
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<td>Thursday 4/25</td>
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There will be no final exam in this course.

We will meet to turn in and discuss our research papers on xxxx from xx until xx p.m.