Honolulu Community College
General Education – DIVERSIFICATION DESIGNATION
Certification and Recertification
Application Form
Spring 2012

APPLICANT: David Panisnick

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COURSE ALPHA and NUMBER: REL 201

COURSE TITLE: Understanding the New Testament

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SECTIONS:
Fall: 0
Spring: 1

APPLICATION IS FOR:
☐ New Course  ☐ Modified Course  ☒ Existing Course  ☐ Re-designation
☐ Certification  ☒ Re-Certification. Date of last certification:

DIVERSIFICATION AREA DESIGNATION SOUGHT:
☐ DA (Arts)  ☐ DP (Physical Sciences)
☐ DB (Biological Sciences)  ☐ DS (Social Sciences)
☒ DH (Humanities)  ☐ DY (Laboratory)
☐ DL (Literature and Language)

What percentage of the CONTENT of this course focuses on this diversification area? 75%

What percentage of CLASS MEETINGS focuses on this diversification area? 75%
Guidelines and explanatory notes for the following questions are located at the end of this document.

1. **Hallmarks and SLOs.** Please explain how course-specific SLOs align with the diversification area’s hallmarks.

1. **DH Hallmark 1:** Uses the terminology of historical, philosophical, language or religious studies.

SLO 1: To understand and be able to articulate the history, composition, intent and central teachings of the New Testament.

It took over three hundred years for the New Testament to reach its final form. Study of that historical period is essential to understanding why some books were selected for inclusion in the canon, and others not. The New Testament is a work in philosophical theology. A limited use of Greek language is necessary to understand the New Testament's composition and teachings, even on an introductory level. Understanding the New Testament as a work in religious studies is self-evident.

2. **DH Hallmark 2:** Involves texts, artifacts, processes, theories or issues of concern in these studies.

SLO 5: To understand and be able to articulate the different approaches, major problems, various interpretations and present day applications of the New Testament and its teachings in today's world.

Christian sects and denominations invariably employ and emphasize the use of the New Testament in various ways. This raises major issues of ethical, political and cultural concern. The course strongly emphasizes the importance of the contextual meaning of writings in the New Testament and how various uses and misuses (selective quoting) has contributed to modern inter-Christian conflicts.

3. **DH Hallmark 3:** Demonstrates inquiry that involves the method of study, reflection, evidence gathering, and argumentation that are reflected in these studies.

SLO 2: To understand and be able to articulate the literary forms, principles of interpretation and technical terminology used in the study of the New Testament.

The importance of an academic approach is emphasized throughout the course. Hermeneutics, the study of interpretations, and exegesis, drawing out the meaning of a text, are employed. The instructor is candid about what we know and how we know it; candid about what we do not know or cannot know and why. Where there are pronounced scholarly disagreements, these are discussed and sometimes debated in class.
2. **Assessment strategies.** Explain assessment strategies you have used (or plan to use) to measure the degree to which students exit the course with the course-specific SLOs. If there are multiple sections of the course taught by different instructors, please discuss how assessment is (or will be) carried out across instructors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Each section of the course tests by essay exams. The essays are structured so that specific SLOs are embedded in the essays. Examples:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLO 1: Discuss the canonization of the New Testament.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLO 2: What is redaction criticism? Provide and discuss an example comparing either Matthew or Luke with Mark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLO 3: Discuss the political and religious conflicts (e.g. Conciliar Period) during the canonization of the New Testament.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLO 4: Discuss the use of the theme of Eschatology in all four gospels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLO 5: Discuss the differences between conservative and liberal approaches to the New Testament in American Christianity.</td>
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SLOs are assessed at the end of the course by providing the students with a list of the SLOs with the instruction to rank each SLO relative to the other SLOs with regard to which was best communicated, second best, so on and so forth to the SLO which was the least communicated.

3. **Assessment of assessment.** How have you used (or plan to use) the assessment findings to modify or improve this course? If there are multiple sections of the course taught by different instructors, please discuss how review of assessment results is (or will be) carried out across instructors.

| Each semester, after tabulating the students' assessment of which SLOs were communicated best, which worst, I compare this with my own perspective on where I need to improve. If the students' assessment is consistent with my own, my course is clear and I focus my attention on remedying the delinquent SLOs. When the students' assessment conflicts with my assessment, the first thing, and sometimes the only thing I do, is reconsider the wording of the SLO. I try not to overestimate the students' ability to interpret the intent and meaning of a SLO. Experience has more often than not justified this intuition based on the following semester's results. |

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DIVERSIFICATION BOARD DECISION:

☑ Approved
Re-Certification Due: Spring 2018

☐ Not approved
If not approved, reasons for disapproval:

Diversification Board Chair Signature: [Signature]
Date: 1/10/13
Course Description: Origin and development of early Christian message as set forth in New Testament with special attention to Jesus and Paul (3 credits). This is a three-credit course that fulfills a humanities requirement (DH) for the A.A. degree at HCC and UH-Manoa.

Introduction: Problems and Tools for Analysis.

   1. Translations and Manuscripts.
   2. Canonization and the Problem of Orthodoxy.

II. Types of Critical Approaches.
   1. Religio-Historical Criticism.
   2. Form Criticism.
   3. Redaction Criticism.

Historical and Religious Period and Environment.

III. The Eschatological Mileau.
   1. The Greco-Roman World.
   2. Jewish People and Religion.
   3. Groups and Movements.

The Problem of Faith and History.

IV. The Unavailability of the Historical Jesus.
   1. The Problem of Mythology.
   2. Q Source: Jesus as God's Eschatological Messenger.

V. The Synoptic Tradition.
   1. Mark: Jesus as the Culmination of Apocalyptic History.
VI. The Synthetic Tradition.

1. John: Theology as the History of Jesus.

Paul and the Beginnings of Christianity.

VII. Letters and Missions.

1. Problems of Unifying Communities.

VIII. Paul's Theological Anthropology.

1. "All have sinned and fall short" (Rom. 3:23).
2. "A man is justified by faith" (Rom. 3:28).
3. "God was in Christ" (II Cor. 5:19).
4. "If any man be in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17).
5. "But, you may ask, how are the dead raised?" (I Cor. 15:35).

Conclusions.

IX. The Revelation of John.

Heim, A Harmony of the Gospels.
All students will be expected to bring a Bible to class.

GRADING: There will be three exams. The exams will be of equal worth and each will cover approximately one-third of the course. Class lecture and discussion will be the primary basis for the exams.

SLOs: Student Learning Opportunities.

1. To understand and be able to articulate the history, composition, intent and central teachings of the New Testament.
2. To understand and be able to articulate the literary forms, principles of interpretation and technical terminology used in the study of the New Testament.
3. To understand and be able to articulate the political, religious and historical settings in which the New Testament was formed, developed, finalized and lived.
4. To understand and be able to articulate the major theological themes found in selected books of the New Testament.
5. To understand and be able to articulate the different approaches, major problems, various interpretations and present day applications of the New Testament and its teachings in today's world.