General Education Submission Form

Ideally, submissions should be discussed by the department prior to submittal and should be accompanied by a letter of support from the department chair. Electronic submissions are preferred.

A. GE component for which course is being proposed:
   II. Common Inquiries: F. Thinking Globally

B. Course being proposed (please attach syllabus):
   RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire

C. This course
   - [ ] Has not been modified, but is being submitted to check its suitability
   - [x] Has had its syllabus rewritten to communicate the course’s contribution to GE
   - [ ] Has had its contents modified to address the relevant GE issues
   - [ ] Is a new course designed to fulfill the GE requirement

D. This course is being submitted as
   - [ ] A Template. Applicable to courses with multiple sections which require only general training in the discipline. The submission should come with the approval of the department chair and should clearly identify what course content and what elements of the syllabus the department has agreed will common to all sections. Upon approval by the GE Committee, any course whose syllabus is determined by the department to meet the specifications of the template is approved to satisfy this area requirement. A copy of each syllabus should be forwarded to the G.E. committee for record keeping purposes.
   - [x] An Individual Course. Applicable to courses requiring specialized training in the discipline or are typically offered by a particular instructor. The course should be resubmitted and reassessed in the event of a change in staffing or syllabus.

E. Brief statement of rationale:

RS 158 has already been approved by the GE Committee to fulfill II. Common Inquiries: G. Thinking Historically. I am seeking the Committee’s approval of this course for F. Thinking Globally for the content of the course. The course provides a survey of Christianity not only from a historical standpoint but also from a culturally diverse perspective. My pedagogical approach to a history of Christianity has been to help students understand it as a history of contextualization of the gospel. The geographical locus of the course focuses on ancient Mediterranean world, and a contextual study entails a comparative and “global” outlook into various experiences and expressions of Christianity in the world, particularly since the worldviews and settings of ancient Christianity stand a lot closer to those in the non-Western Southern Hemisphere. What is more significant is how the historical development of Christianity, starting from the ancient Mediterranean and Greco-Roman culture all the way to the current “exponential growth” in the (so-called) Third World countries, has been shaped by and has in turn shaped the specific cultures in which Christianity took its roots. My lectures, readings (both primary and secondary), films and class discussions will address these important issues and invite, enable and challenge the students to think of various expressions of
Christian faith from the perspective of “the others” in the context of the cultural “others.” In this way, understanding ancient Christianity and its historical development is critical to gaining a global and diverse perspective.