I. Approval of the September 27, 2012 Minutes

II. Policies, Procedures & Awards Subcommittee Report
   A. Subcommittee update  (Paulyn Cartwright)

III. Curricular Changes Subcommittee Report
   A. New courses: REL 727; REL 737; REL 747; REL 757; REL 767
   B. Course deletions: REL 780; REL 781

IV. Petitions & Program Changes Subcommittee Report
   A. New Program: Indigenous Studies, Graduate Certificate
   B. Program Change: English, MFA
   C. Program Change: Religious Studies, MA
   D. Program Change: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, PhD

V. Old Business

VI. New Business
I. Approval of the September 27, 2012 Minutes

The University of Kansas
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES
September 27, 2012, 11:00AM
STRONG HALL – ROOM 210

Members Present: Eve Levin (Chair), Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Paulyn Cartwright, Chris Elles, Allison Gabriele, Paul Johnson, Ed Morris, Stephanie Meador (Graduate Student)

Others in attendance: Kristine Latta (Director, COGA), Cindy Lynn (COGA), Jim Mielke (ex officio), and Lea Smith (COGA)

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Levin at 11:04 a.m.

Minutes
A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 13, 2012, minutes of the Committee on Graduate Studies, as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Policies, Procedures & Awards Subcommittee
(Paulyn Cartwright chair, reporting)

Dr. Cartwright presented the Recommendations for Best Practices and Learner Outcomes for Graduate Teaching Assistants report to the members of CGS. The committee noted that they began with GTA recommendations and will now begin to address best practices for GRAs. There was some discussion of the challenges presented by Out of Field GTA appointments. CGS made recommendations for clarification to the report.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the report with the suggested revisions. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Petitions & Program Changes Subcommittee
(Allison Gabriele chair, reporting)

- Dr. Ajayi-Soyinka reported that WGSS intends to make an additional change to their program information. A motion was made and seconded to table the WGSS PhD program change proposal pending departmental clarification. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business
- A motion was made and seconded to remove the UKRA course from CGS consideration due to the fact that it is a 500 level course. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Dr. Latta provided CGS members with an update of the status of graduate student representatives to serve on the CGS. Nominees will be asked to submit a brief paragraph to support their nomination.

New Business
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Levin at 12:05 pm.

Upcoming Meetings
The next meetings of the CGS Subcommittees are October 4, 2012.
- Curricular Changes, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., via email
- Petitions & Program Changes, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., via email and/or Blackboard
II. Policies, Petitions & Awards Subcommittee Report

A. Subcommittee update (Paulyn Cartwright)

III. Curricular Changes Subcommittee Report

The Curricular Changes Subcommittee recommends the following new courses and course deletions to the CGS:

Religious Studies

A. New Courses:

REL 727 Seminar in Religion, Text, and Textuality (3) This seminar explores issues surrounding the production and use of authoritative religious texts (sacred texts) in religious traditions, including such topics as scripturality and canon, scriptural hermeneutics, and material and ritual dimensions of scriptural practice. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM.

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: Candidates for the MA in Religious Studies are currently required to complete 3 seminars (9 cr. hrs.) at the 700 or 800 level. One of those seminars must be either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion. As part of a program change, the Department of Religious Studies is replacing this (and deleting 780 and 781) with a requirement that six of those nine hours must come from two of five new seminar rubrics covering a number of theoretical and methodological issues and discourses foundational to the contemporary academic study of religion. REL 727, with its emphasis on issues of text, is one of the rubrics from which students may choose.

This course impacts students in the following way: We anticipate no burdensome impact on students. Second-year students have already fulfilled the requirement as it currently stands (take either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion), and first-year students are still early enough in the program that they will have ample opportunity in the upcoming three semesters to take advantage of the new seminar choices. To further this point, no one in our new crop of students has yet to take REL 780 or REL 781, which the new seminar choices will replace, because they have historically been offered only in the spring semester.

This new course will be first offered Spring 2013, and then As one of five new seminar rub thereafter.

JUSTIFICATION

This course is being added because it will be part of new seminar choices that the Department has forwarded to CGS for review and approval as a program change.

REL 737 Seminar in Religion, Media, and Performance (3). This seminar explores aspects of performance and the media of performance in lived religion, which might include such topics as ritual, the body, mass media and the internet, and visual and material culture. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM.

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: Candidates for the MA in Religious Studies are currently required to complete 3 seminars (9 cr. hrs.) at the 700 or 800 level. One of those seminars must be
either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion. As part of a program change, the Department of Religious Studies is replacing this (and deleting 780 and 781) with a requirement that six of those nine hours must come from two of five new seminar rubrics covering a number of theoretical and methodological issues and discourses foundational to the contemporary academic study of religion. REL 737, with its multiple emphases on how religion is visually constructed, viewed, and performed, is one of the rubrics from which students may choose.

This course impacts students in the following way: We anticipate no burdensome impact on students. Second-year students have already fulfilled the requirement as it currently stands (take either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion), and first-year students are still early enough in the program that they will have ample opportunity in the upcoming three semesters to take advantage of the new seminar choices. To further this point, no one in our new crop of students has yet to take REL 780 or REL 781, which the new seminar choices will replace, because they have historically been offered only in the spring semester.

This new course will be first offered Spring 2013, and then As one of five new seminar rub thereafter.

JUSTIFICATION

This course is being added because it will be part of new seminar choices that the Department has forwarded to CGS for review and approval as a program change.

REL 747 Seminar in Religion, Society, and Social Change (3). This seminar explores issues regarding the social dimensions of religiosity/lived religion, ranging from aspects of religious institutionalization, authority, and normativity to alternative religiousities and alterity. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM.

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: Candidates for the MA in Religious Studies are currently required to complete 3 seminars (9 cr. hrs.) at the 700 or 800 level. One of those seminars must be either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion. As part of a program change, the Department of Religious Studies is replacing this (and deleting 780 and 781) with a requirement that six of those nine hours must come from two of five new seminar rubrics covering a number of theoretical and methodological issues and discourses foundational to the contemporary academic study of religion. REL 747 is one of the rubrics from which students may choose.

This course impacts students in the following way: We anticipate no burdensome impact on students. Second-year students have already fulfilled the requirement as it currently stands (take either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion), and first-year students are still early enough in the program that they will have ample opportunity in the upcoming three semesters to take advantage of the new seminar choices. To further this point, no one in our new crop of students has yet to take REL 780 or REL 781, which the new seminar choices will replace, because they have historically been offered only in the spring semester.

This new course will be first offered Spring 2013, and then As one of five new seminar rub thereafter.

JUSTIFICATION

This course is being added because it will be part of new seminar choices that the Department has forwarded to CGS for review and approval as a program change.

757 Seminar in Religious Subjectivity, Experience, and Narrative (3). This seminar explores issues regarding the subjective and experiential dimension of lived religiosity, including such things as religious experience and mysticism, modes of personal religious expression and embodiment, and dynamics of personal and collective religious narrative and identity. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM.

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: Candidates for the MA in Religious Studies are
currently required to complete 3 seminars (9 cr. hrs.) at the 700 or 800 level. One of those seminars must be either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion. As part of a program change, the Department of Religious Studies is replacing this (and deleting 780 and 781) with a requirement that six of those nine hours must come from two of five new seminar rubrics covering a number of theoretical and methodological issues and discourses foundational to the contemporary academic study of religion. REL 757 is one of the rubrics from which students may choose.

This course impacts students in the following way: We anticipate no burdensome impact on students. Second-year students have already fulfilled the requirement as it currently stands (take either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion), and first-year students are still early enough in the program that they will have ample opportunity in the upcoming three semesters to take advantage of the new seminar choices. To further this point, no one in our new crop of students has yet to take REL 780 or REL 781, which the new seminar choices will replace, because they have historically been offered only in the spring semester.

This new course will be first offered Spring 2013, and then as one of five new seminar rub there after.

**JUSTIFICATION**

This course is being added because it will be part of new seminar choices that the Department has forwarded to CGS for review and approval as a program change.

**REL 767 Seminar in Theory, Method, and History in Religious Studies** (3). This seminar explores theoretical, methodological, and historical issues that are instrumental to our notions of religion as an analytic category and foundational to the study of religion as a field of academic enquiry. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM.

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: Candidates for the MA in Religious Studies are currently required to complete 3 seminars (9 cr. hrs.) at the 700 or 800 level. One of those seminars must be either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion. As part of a program change, the Department of Religious Studies is replacing this (and deleting 780 and 781) with a requirement that six of those nine hours must come from two of five new seminar rubrics covering a number of theoretical and methodological issues and discourses foundational to the contemporary academic study of religion. REL 767 is one of the rubrics from which students may choose.

This course impacts students in the following way: We anticipate no burdensome impact on students. Second-year students have already fulfilled the requirement as it currently stands (take either REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Theories of Religion), and first-year students are still early enough in the program that they will have ample opportunity in the upcoming three semesters to take advantage of the new seminar choices. To further this point, no one in our new crop of students has yet to take REL 780 or REL 781, which the new seminar choices will replace, because they have historically been offered only in the spring semester.

This new course will be first offered Spring 2013, and then as one of five new seminar rub there after.

**JUSTIFICATION**

This course is being added because it will be part of new seminar choices that the Department has forwarded to CGS for review and approval as a program change.

**B. Course Deletions:**

**REL 780 Seminar in Theories of Religious Experience** (3) Seminar exploring sociological, psychological, anthropological, and other theories regarding religious experience. Permission of instructor.

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: This course, or its partner course REL 781 Theories of Religion, is required for the M.A. in Religious Studies. We are replacing it and its partner course with a set of five (from which students choose two) theoretically and methodologically driven
seminars that is more representative of the interdisciplinary nature and theoretical hybridity characteristic of contemporary religious studies.

This course impacts students in the following way: We anticipate no burdensome impact on students. Current second-year students have already taken the course, and current first-year students are still early enough in the program that they will have ample opportunity in the upcoming three semesters to take advantage of the new seminar choices.

This course will be deleted beginning Spring 2013.

JUSTIFICATION
This course is being deleted because it will be replaced by new seminar choices that the Department has forwarded to CGS for review and approval as a program change.

REL 781 Seminar in Theories of Religion (3) A study of selected theorists concerned with the nature of religion conducted by methodological analysis of the theories, data, and conclusions. SEM.

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: This course, or its partner course REL 780 Theories of Religious Experience, is required for the M.A. in Religious Studies. We are replacing it and its partner course with a set of five (from which students choose two) theoretically and methodologically driven seminars that is more representative of the interdisciplinary nature and theoretical hybridity characteristic of contemporary religious studies.

This course impacts students in the following way: We anticipate no burdensome impact on students. Current second-year students have already taken the course, and current first-year students are still early enough in the program that they will have ample opportunity in the upcoming three semesters to take advantage of the new seminar choices.

This course will be deleted beginning Spring 2013.

JUSTIFICATION
This course is being deleted because it will be replaced by new seminar choices that the Department has forwarded to CGS for review and approval as a program change.

IV. Petitions & Program Changes Subcommittee Report

A. New Program: Indigenous Studies Graduate Certificate

ISP, Graduate Certificate

See Addendum

B. Program Change: English, MFA

ENGL, MFA

Current Program Requirement: 1. Four graduate courses in literature, English or American. 2. Four graduate courses (12 hours) in creative writing. 3. No more than six hours may be taken at the 600-level. 4. Seven to nine hours in electives or practica (including ENGL 803: Practicum in the Teaching of Creative Writing), chosen from graduate courses in the Department of English, or approved courses in another department. 5. English 899, Thesis (15 hours). Original writing in prose fiction, poetry, drama, or nonfiction prose.

Proposed Program Changes: 1. Four graduate courses in literature, English or American. 2. Four graduate courses (12 hours) in creative writing. 3. No more than six hours may be taken at the 600-level. 4. Seven to nine hours in electives or practica chosen from graduate courses in the Department of English, or approved
courses in another department. 5. A mandatory series of meetings and mentoring to address the specifics of creative writing course preparation. 6. English 899, Thesis (15 hours). Original writing in prose fiction, poetry, drama, or nonfiction prose.

The change(s) to this program will first take effect Spring 2013

JUSTIFICATION
Currently, 803 is a one-credit required course for all graduate teaching assistants pursuing an MFA or Ph.D in Creative Writing, addressing creative writing pedagogy. However, there is fairly substantial duplication in course goals/knowledge from the 801 and 802 pedagogy courses (required of all GTAs), causing some students to feel 803 is not an effective use of their time; indeed, some instructors have found that by the time many of the students take 803 they have already developed their own workshop identity. Additionally, in recent semesters, the one-hour, uncompensated course has become difficult to staff; the weekly meetings and class visits require additional course prep and planning from an already thinly-stretched CW faculty. Therefore, the department has elected (on the recommendation of the Creative Writing committee) that 803 be dropped as a requirement and replaced with a rigorous program of focused mentoring coupled with a series of meetings to address the specifics of creative writing course preparation.

C. Program Change: Religious Studies, PhD

REL, MA

Current Program Requirement: Each student must complete REL 780 Seminar in Theories of Religious Experience or REL 781 Seminar in Theories of Religion. The student should complete the prerequisite 12 hours of undergraduate courses in religious studies before taking REL 601, REL 780, or REL 781.

Proposed Program Requirement: Each student must complete 2 seminars (total of 6 credit hours) from the following rubrics of theory and method-oriented seminars: (1) REL 727 Seminar in Religion and Textuality, (2) REL 737 Seminar in Religion, Media, and Performance, (3) REL 747 Seminar in Religion, Society, and Social Change, (4) REL 757 Seminar in Religious Subjectivity, Experience, and Narrative, (5) REL 767 Seminar in Theory, Method, and History in Religious Studies.

The change(s) to this program will first take effect: Spring 2013

JUSTIFICATION
Candidates for the MA in Religious Studies are currently required to complete 3 seminars (9 cr. hrs.) at the 700 or 800 level. One of those seminars must be either REL 780 or REL 781, which have traditionally been represented as a capstone seminar for the graduate students. The original objective for creating the REL 780/781 capstone seminar requirement was to give graduate students an intensive, and collective, hands-on experience of applying core theoretical and methodological discourses to specific research projects of their own design. The new requirement retains this same objective, while also accommodating the specific topical focus of REL 780 and 781 within one of the new seminar rubrics. Religious Studies is an inherently interdisciplinary field that, in its current state, ranges across a wide variety of topoi, of which classic theories of religion and religious experiences are but one. The new requirement has the distinct advantage of (a) Freeing faculty from the burden of having to offer the same course every year. (b) Opening the capstone seminar to the participation of all regular faculty within the department, thereby forestalling the tendency for the course and its content to be monopolized by a single or select group of faculty. (c) Allowing the graduate program to better reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the field and keep pace with new developments, and it gives faculty the flexibility to introduce current and developing research interests directly into the graduate curriculum. (d) Avoiding duplication of content between REL 601, the required introductory course for MA students, and REL 781 (Theory and Method in Religious Studies), which has been an ongoing problem in the past. The new arrangement opens the field of theoretical and
methodological options, allowing students to explore theoretical orientations of their choice to greater depth, and to do so with an intensive research and writing component. (e) Calling for each seminar to be front-loaded with formative theoretical and methodological literature in accordance to its respective rubric and the instructor specific focus for that semester. Over time this front-loading will provide for each rubric a select and growing list of titles from which a fluid but thematically stable genealogical bibliography of classic and contemporary works will be produced and made available for both faculty and students to draw upon for research, collaboration, and preparation for comprehensive exams. (f) Providing a better complement to our recently adopted portfolio style of comprehensive exam. It encourages students to articulate their own research interests in close collaboration with faculty mentors, provides the students with hands-on collaborative research experience with faculty, and results in the production of polished research papers that may be used in the portfolio exam. 1. REL 727 Seminar in Religion, Text, and Textuality (3). This seminar explores issues surrounding the production and use of authoritative religious texts (sacred text) in religious traditions, including such topics as scripturality and canon, scriptural hermeneutics, and material and ritual dimensions of scriptural practice. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM 2. REL 737 Seminar in Religion, Media, and Performance (3). This seminar explores aspects of performance and the media of performance in lived religion, which might include such topics as ritual, the body, mass media and the internet, and visual and material culture. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM 3. REL 747 Seminar in Religion, Society, and Social Change (3). This seminar explores issues regarding the social dimensions of religiosity/lived religion, ranging from aspects of religious institutionalization, authority, and normativity to alternative religiosities and alterity. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM 4. REL 757 Seminar in Religious Subjectivity, Experience, and Narrative (3). This seminar explores issues regarding the subjective and experiential dimension of lived religiosity, including such things as religious experience and mysticism, modes of personal religious expression and embodiment, and dynamics of personal and collective religious narrative and identity. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM 5. REL 767 Seminar in Theory, Method, and History in Religious Studies (3). This seminar explores theoretical, methodological, and historical issues that are instrumental to our notions of religion as an analytic category and foundational to the study of religion as a field of academic enquiry. Specific case studies and content to be selected by the instructor. SEM

REGARDING THE MISSING PREREQUISITES IN THE NEW PROPOSAL: We found it was a terrible burden on, and intellectually unfair to, incoming graduate students to require they take undergraduate REL courses if they were lacking such a background in their undergraduate days. It emptied their pockets, gave them no credit, and thus no progress to the degree. We think a solid humanities and/or social science record (regardless of the number of REL courses) is proof enough that a student has high chance of success with our program. Bill

D. Program Change: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

WGSS, PhD

Current Examination Requirement: "At the end of 30 hours of coursework (21 in WGSS and 9 in a concentration), students will take an oral exam (normally at the end of the student’s second year): this will determine whether the student takes an MA and leaves the program or the student continues on towards the Ph.D."

Proposed Examination Requirement: Students will take a qualifying exam in their fourth semester (administered by the instructors of WGSS 800,801,802). Results of this exam will determine whether or not the student is given a terminal MA and leaves the program or the student continues on towards the Ph.D.

The change(s) to this program will first take effect: Spring 2013
JUSTIFICATION
WGSS faculty and graduate students believe that the new wording clarifies the qualifying nature
of the exam and the uniformity of the exam committee.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business