Approved Experiential Essay Topics

Humanities

Credit for Religious Studies courses is awarded for demonstration of ability to analyze religious beliefs and practices in the context of a scholarly discipline such as literature, philosophy, history, archeology or sociology. A description of personal and/or church beliefs and their origins is not the equivalent of college-level learning.

Essay topics should be selected based off of personal or professional experience and the needs of the student program. Students should contact an academic advisor to determine program needs.

Possible Course Duplication - This identifies possible course duplication between the essay topic and other coursework. The essay descriptions listed below could duplicate the courses indicated and/or any other coursework required or completed. Please contact your AC or plac@phoenix.edu to verify there is no duplication with your chosen topic before writing an essay.

Possible Supporting Documentation - This section identifies possible or recommended supporting documentation for the chosen topic. This is to assist students in choosing appropriate documentation. It is not all inclusive. If you are unable to provide the possible supporting documentation identified please contact PLA customer service to discuss other options for appropriate documentation.

Table of Contents

Lower Division Topics

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Appreciation of Music, Art, Dance, or Theater	3 LD	Humanities
Bible Literature	3 LD	Humanities
History of Religion	3 LD	Humanities
Introduction to Applied Professional Ethics	3 LD	Humanities
Language and Culture	3 LD	Humanities
Religion and the Arts	3 LD	Humanities

Upper Division Topics

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Analysis of Cultural Expression	3 UD	Humanities
Comparative Religion	3 UD	Humanities
Contemporary Issues	3 UD	Humanities
Contemporary Literature	3 UD	Humanities
Contemporary Southwest Cultures	3 UD	Humanities
Ethnic Art	3 UD	Humanities
Ethnic Literature	3 UD	Humanities
Ethnic Music	3 UD	Humanities
Feminist Issues	3 UD	Humanities
History of American Television or Motion Picture	3 UD	Humanities
Inside Religion	3 UD	Humanities
International Business Issues	3 UD	Humanities

Southwest Indian Arts and Crafts	3 UD	Humanities

Lower Division Topics		
Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Appreciation of Music, Art, Dance, or Theater (select only one)	**3 LD**	**Humanities**
Course Description		
Select one area and discuss the evolution of the area as it connects to history, technology, and politics. The following subtopics are to be addressed:		
Subtopic 1:	historical development of the art form in a specific cultural context	
Subtopic 2:	the vocabulary and design principles of the art form	
Subtopic 3:	materials, processes, and communicative medium involved in the art form	
Subtopic 4:	role of the artist in creating and executing the art form	
Subtopic 5:	impact of the culture on the art form	
Subtopic 6:	impact of the art form on culture	
Possible Course Duplication		
This course duplicates HUM/103. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.		
Possible Documentation		
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of attendance at events for selected art form, or certificate of completion for course of similar content		

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Bible Literature	**3 LD**	**Humanities**
Course Description		
The student will discuss an overview of types of literature found in the Bible. The following subtopics are to be addressed:		
Subtopic 1:	purpose of literary form	
Subtopic 2:	identify various forms	
Subtopic 3:	style	
Subtopic 4:	intended audience	
Subtopic 5:	changes in meaning over time	
Subtopic 6:	discuss the “lost books”	
Possible Course Duplication		
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.		
Possible Documentation		
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion for course of similar content		

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
History of Religion	**3 LD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

The student will provide an historical overview of one of the 12 major world's religions. The 12 acceptable religions are Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, Jainism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Baha'i. A sect within one of these religions is not acceptable. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	theoretical perspectives and development of the theology
Subtopic 2:	mysticism
Subtopic 3:	organization and sacred literature
Subtopic 4:	significant events and history
Subtopic 5:	rites and practices
Subtopic 6:	persons contributing to contemporary expression of the religion

Possible Course Duplication

This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of membership/affiliation with place of worship in selected religion, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Introduction to Applied Professional Ethics	**3 LD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

Discuss ethical theories and the application of ethics within the standards, roles, and responsibilities of a professional environment. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	the role of ethics in the workplace
Subtopic 2:	the interplay of personal values and ethical standards
Subtopic 3:	the interplay of professional responsibilities and ethical standards
Subtopic 4:	a model for ethical decision-making
Subtopic 5:	practical implications of ethical decisions
Subtopic 6:	conflicts of values/ethical dilemmas

Possible Course Duplication

This course duplicates core classes from the AAACC, AAB v9 &10, AACJ v 9 &10, AAFBS v12, AAHS v9 &10, AAHSM, and AASM v12. This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Language and Culture	**3 LD**	**Humanities**

Course Description
Experience in the use and application of language to culture. Discuss the use of language and the effects on culture and how culture effects language. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	Discuss the role of media's influence on language and culture.
Subtopic 2:	Discuss the influence of science and technology in language and culture.
Subtopic 3:	Discuss how slang is influenced by culture.
Subtopic 4:	Discuss how vocabulary can be both expanded and limited through cultural influences.
Subtopic 5:	Discuss changes in meaning of language and idiomatic expressions in everyday language.
Subtopic 6:	Discuss the impact advertising has on language.

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of mission or residence in country with a different native language, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Religion and the Arts	**3 LD**	**Humanities**

Course Description
Students should use one or more artistic forms including, but not limited to, painting, sculpture, architecture, music, literature, and dance. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	religious beliefs
Subtopic 2:	themes
Subtopic 3:	values
Subtopic 4:	cultural context of art form
Subtopic 5:	economic context of art form
Subtopic 6:	how artistic work develops using religion

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Upper Division Topics		
Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Analysis of Cultural Expression	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

The student should describe and analyze selected modes of cultural expression. Discuss the value systems of the society, cultural group, and/or historical setting using a comparative or developmental approach. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	Music
Subtopic 2:	Art
Subtopic 3:	Literature
Subtopic 4:	Philosophy and religion
Subtopic 5:	Theater
Subtopic 6:	Photography

Possible Course Duplication

This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of ethnicity within a specific cultural group, or certificate of completion from course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Comparative Religion	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

A comparison of religious history, philosophy, and teachings of two or more of the 12 major world's religions. The 12 acceptable religions are Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, Jainism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Baha'i. A comparison of a sect within a major world religion in not eligible to be addressed. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	Comparison of religious history
Subtopic 2:	Comparison of philosophy and teachings
Subtopic 3:	The cultural context from which the religions arose
Subtopic 4:	The effect of the religions upon moral values within the cultures
Subtopic 5:	The effect of the religions upon social attitudes within the cultures
Subtopic 6:	The effect of the religions upon spiritual beliefs within the cultures

Possible Course Duplication

This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of ministry or missionary work in another country with different religious practices, proof of residence in a country with different religious practices, proof of religious conversion, or certificate of completion from course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Contemporary Issues	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

A discussion of current issues and enduring ideas in modern life as expressed in the context of Western philosophical thought. One or more recognized philosophical views (such as idealism, pragmatism, or existentialism) must be identified and used as the basis for discussion. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	ethical problems
Subtopic 2:	competing values
Subtopic 3:	cultural aspects of political system
Subtopic 4:	concept of society and social behavior
Subtopic 5:	role of religion
Subtopic 6:	viewpoint on economics

Possible Course Duplication

This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of blog writing or other published social commentary, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title		General Education
Contemporary Literature	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

Study of significant modern poetry, drama, short stories, novels, essays, biographies, and autobiographies emphasizing critical commentary. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	Identify the history and basis of Contemporary Literature
Subtopic 2:	Analyze the political implications of Contemporary Literature
Subtopic 3:	Differentiate the socio-economic issues related to Contemporary Literature
Subtopic 4:	Identify and compare the role of authors
Subtopic 5:	Define the major themes and societal application
Subtopic 6:	Analyze the documentation of community through written commentary

Possible Course Duplication

This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Contemporary Southwest Cultures	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

An in-depth study of two or more of the Indian tribes of the southwest, including a comparative analysis of their social, political, and economic organizations, and an in-depth examination of religious, ceremonial, and traditional cultural practices. The study must include the role of the tribes in self-determination and their interaction/relationship with non-Indian society at the local, state, and national level. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	Identify the key components of southwest cultures
Subtopic 2:	Examine the sociological, political, and economic implications of Contemporary Southwest Culture
Subtopic 3:	Identify the roles of the tribes related to local, state, and national regulatory agencies
Subtopic 4:	Analyze the basic religious, ceremonial, and traditional practices of the Native American culture
Subtopic 5:	Identify and discuss potential issues surrounding cultural interaction - tribe to tribe, and external
Subtopic 6:	Examine the impact of culture related to health (mental and physical)

Possible Course Duplication

This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of tribal affiliation, proof of residence on a Native American reservation, or certificate of completion from course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Ethnic Art	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description

The student must discuss artistic expression as expressed by a specific ethnic group. The following subtopics are to be addressed:

Subtopic 1:	role of art form within the cultural context
Subtopic 2:	the historical development of art form
Subtopic 3:	identify major contributors and their contributions
Subtopic 4:	describe an ethnic group based on style(s) of art
Subtopic 5:	describe media used
Subtopic 6:	discuss specific identifying techniques and designs

Possible Course Duplication

This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation

Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of ethnicity, proof of residence in country of origin of selected ethnic group, proof of mission amongst selected ethnic group, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Ethnic Literature	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description	
The following subtopics are to be addressed:	
Subtopic 1:	Identify major writers of ethnic fiction, non-fiction, autobiographical, and biographical materials.
Subtopic 2:	Provide an analysis of the authors' expressed or assumed purpose for the writing.
Subtopic 3:	Compare and contrast the literary styles of the writers.
Subtopic 4:	Identify themes, their differences and commonalities across the writing.
Subtopic 5:	Discuss the symbolism used and its relation to the ethnic experience.
Subtopic 6:	Analyze the chosen genre of each author.

Possible Course Duplication
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Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of ethnicity, proof of residence in country of origin of selected ethnic group, proof of mission amongst selected ethnic group, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Ethnic Music	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description	
The following subtopics are to be addressed:	
Subtopic 1:	Discuss the origin and development of traditional and contemporary ethnic music.
Subtopic 2:	Analyze the styles of the musical tradition.
Subtopic 3:	Describe the techniques and instrumentations used in the music.
Subtopic 4:	Analyze the role of the musical tradition within the cultural setting
Subtopic 5:	Analyze the contributions of the ethnic music to the evolution of that culture.
Subtopic 6:	Identify the relationship of the ethnic music to that of the greater society.

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of ethnicity, proof of residence in country of origin of selected ethnic group, proof of mission amongst selected ethnic group, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Feminist Issues	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description	
The student should discuss history and development of feminist theory. The following subtopics are to be addressed:	
Subtopic 1:	oppression and liberation of women in American culture
Subtopic 2:	current status of women in the U.S. compared to other countries
Subtopic 3:	discuss feminist contributions to the justice system
Subtopic 4:	discuss feminist contributions to equality
Subtopic 5:	discuss feminist contributions to identity
Subtopic 6:	discuss applicable federal laws

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
History of American Television or Motion Picture	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description	
Discuss either television or film and the development and evolution as art and a form of mass media as it relates to social trends and culture. The following subtopics are to be addressed:	
Subtopic 1:	historical development of the medium
Subtopic 2:	role of the medium as an expression of the storytelling tradition
Subtopic 3:	characteristics of genre
Subtopic 4:	effect of corporate ownership on trends in the medium
Subtopic 5:	influence of the medium on a particular culture
Subtopic 6:	influence of a particular culture on the medium

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Inside Religion	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description	
Description and critical discussion in terms of history and philosophy of the origin, doctrine and literature of a selected religion, denomination or sect. The following subtopics are to be addressed:	
Subtopic 1:	describe the origins and development of the selected religious group.
Subtopic 2:	analyze the development of the selected religious group as it grew.
Subtopic 3:	relate the main teachings or doctrine of the selected religious group.
Subtopic 4:	detail the sacred writings of the selected religious group.
Subtopic 5:	analyze the organization of the selected religious group as it developed.
Subtopic 6:	critique the role of the selected religious group within contemporary society.

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of membership/affiliation with place of worship in selected religion, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
International Business Issues	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description	
Transcultural issues or social patterns as they relate to the conduct of business and management, and to the creation of wealth. The following subtopics are to be addressed:	
Subtopic 1:	cultural values
Subtopic 2:	traditions
Subtopic 3:	environmental factors
Subtopic 4:	work ethic
Subtopic 5:	economic structure
Subtopic 6:	authority

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of significant travel to other countries for business, or certificate of completion for course of similar content

Course Title	Credit Award	General Education
Southwest Indian Arts and Crafts	**3 UD**	**Humanities**

Course Description	
A study of the principles of Native American arts and crafts as forms of expression and an extension of the methods and media as the “physical.” The following subtopics are to be addressed:	
Subtopic 1:	expression of Native American cosmology
Subtopic 2:	historic vehicles for transmitting language
Subtopic 3:	components in story telling/oral traditions
Subtopic 4:	expression of Native American aesthetics
Subtopic 5:	vehicles for perpetuation of the culture
Subtopic 6:	expressions of social and economic adaptations

Possible Course Duplication
This course may duplicate courses of similar content.

Possible Documentation
Professional letter, 2 or more personal letters, proof of tribal affiliation, proof of residence on a Native American reservation, or certificate of completion from course of similar content