

Courses and Curriculum

Reworking Religious Studies at Canterbury

Religious Studies at Canterbury have just undertaken a complete refit of all their courses. RELS 101 and 102, the introductory Stage I courses in Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, will be discontinued at the end of the year, and with them go the Stage II 3-point (half-year) courses in those four traditions as well. From 1994 only two papers will be offered at first-year level, the successful RELS 103 (Religion, Society and Power), and a new paper constructed along similar thematic lines, RELS 104, to be titled 'Alternative Worlds'. The contents of this new paper are still to be worked out.

At the Stage II level four new six-point courses (RELS 227-30) will offer an in-depth orientation to the four major traditions in which the Canterbury staff specialise. It is hoped that this will provide a better and more comprehensive preparation for advanced studies, since in most cases these courses will be required for entry into the corresponding Stage III papers. RELS 210 (Philosophy of Religion) will no longer be required for a major or entry to Honours, and the stipulation that a candidate take a certain number of papers in both 'Eastern' and

'Western' religions has also been dropped. This greatly simplifies the degree regulations for RELS at Canterbury, which have hitherto been fiendishly complicated. Now a major only requires 36 points in RELS, of which at least 12 must be taken from the core papers at Stage III; but at the same time entry to most upper-level courses is more carefully controlled, so as to ensure that students are better prepared.

There are also various changes at Stage III and Honours. A new theory paper (RELS 324: Understanding Religion), taught for the first time this year, will now be required for all students advancing to BA(Hons) or MA, and a new course on Religion and Gender will also commence in 1995. These two courses will be team-taught. A long-cherished dream is realised with the introduction of a paper in Sanskrit at Stage III (RELS 340: Introduction to Classical Sanskrit): but as this will be taught by Paul Harrison, who will be absent on leave in 1994, it will not be available until 1995. The offering of Hindi is also being looked at. The objective here is to equip students with the linguistic tools for graduate work

in Asian religions, the lack of these tools having been a chronic problem for aspiring students in this field. RELS welcomes the announcement of a new lectureship in Chinese at Canterbury for the same reason.

With all these courses the staff at Canterbury hope to increase the appeal of the first-year courses, put the study of the individual traditions on a sounder footing, provide a better basis for graduate work, and integrate their personal research interests more effectively with their teaching.

The University of New England
Department of Philosophy

Lecturer, Studies in Religion

(Tenurable)

Suitably qualified applicants, of any or no religious affiliation, are invited to apply for a tenurable position of lecturer in Studies in Religion. Applicants' research interests may be in any area of Studies in Religion. Applicants must, however, have competence and enthusiasm for teaching the core units in the Studies in Religion program, especially the first year units ("Varieties of Religious Experience" and "How can Religion be Studied?"). These units will be taught in both the internal and external units. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a high level of interpersonal skills in dealing with students and colleagues.

The position will be available from 1 January 1994 and it is anticipated that the successful applicant will arrive in time to teach the first semester units.

Informal enquiries may be directed to Professor Peter Forrest, Department of Philosophy, telephone (067) 73 2765., fax (067) 73 3317, Email pforrest@metz.une.edu.au.

Salary: \$41000 to \$48688 pa. (level B)

Closing date: 27 September 1993

Position no.: 542.

Applications to be addressed to the Director, Personnel Services, University of New England -- Armidale, Armidale, N.S.W. 2351, telephone (067) 73 2678 and should include the names, addresses, telephone, facsimile number/email address of three referees and should state the above position number.