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THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ASIAN STUDIES
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
ANNUAL REPORT 1979

1. STAFF

Religious Studies is taught by a consortium of members of the Faculties of Arts and Asian Studies.

Professor A.H. Johns (Co-ordinator)

Mr. R. Barnes (Department of Classics, Faculty of Arts)

Dr. R. Barz (Department of South Asian & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Asian Studies)

Dr. J. Jordens (Department of Asian Civilizations, Faculty of Asian Studies)

Professor A.L. Basham (Department of Asian Civilizations, Faculty of Asian Studies)

Part-time tutor: Rev. Dr. R. Buckman (St. Paul's, Manuka)

In 1979 the following scholars from outside the A.N.U. also participated in the program:

Dr. S.A. Richardson (Principal, Canberra College of Advanced Education)

Dr. V. Hayes (Senior Lecturer in Charge, Religious Studies, Sturt College of Advanced Education, Adelaide)

Rabbi R. Brasch (Temple Emmanuel, Sydney)

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

Two advanced year units are offered in alternate years, Religious Studies A and B, and may be combined with a wide range of first year units to form a mixed major in the Faculty of Arts. Religious Studies A (offered in 1979) is structured thematically, each theme being explored primarily but not exclusively by reference to a particular religion - Judaism, Buddhism and Islam.

Religious Studies B is an exploration of the scriptural and theological development and paradigmatic relationships between Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

3. STUDENTS

Although student numbers were not spectacular (25 initial enrolments, 1 withdrawal for personal reasons), the students were well-motivated, read widely and critically, and wrote good quality essays. There were no failures.

3. STUDENTS (Contd.)

During the year, useful supplements to the course were provided by special illustrated lectures on the archaeology of the Near East, and the holy places of Islam.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBJECT

- (a) The organisers are convinced that there is scope for development of the subject to justify a full-time appointment. Plans currently discussed for re-structuring the course in the light of three years experience in teaching it include the introduction of a first year unit Religious Concepts, with two advanced units offered in alternate years, to create a Religious Studies major in its own right.
- (b) The organisers are concerned that students taking Religious Studies units should be encouraged to study a source language relevant to their principal area of interest. While Sanskrit and Arabic were available in the Faculty of Asian Studies, Biblical Hebrew was an obvious lacuna. It was hoped that arrangements could be made to allow the offering of a unit of Biblical Hebrew on an occasional basis, according to demand and availability of a (part-time) lecturer.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
RELIGIOUS STUDIES, ANALYSIS OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

<u>1</u> <u>Subject</u> <u>or unit</u>	<u>2</u> <u>Enrolled</u> <u>as at</u> <u>30.4.79</u>	<u>3</u> <u>Sitting</u>	<u>4</u> <u>Wastage</u>	<u>5</u> <u>Failure</u>	<u>6</u> <u>Sitting</u>	<u>7</u> <u>High</u> <u>Distinction</u>	<u>8</u> <u>Distinction</u>	<u>9</u> <u>Credit</u>	<u>10</u> <u>Pass</u>	<u>11</u> <u>Fail</u>
Religious Studies A No.	25	24	1	-	24	3	10	11	-	-
%	100	96	4	-	100	12.5	41.7	45.8	-	-