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Department of Philosophy and Religion Records

Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114
1300 North Campus Drive
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605-688-5094
Email: arcrefs@sdstate.edu

Collection Summary

Identifier

UA 6.12

Title

College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy and Religion
Records

Creator

Department of Philosophy and Religion, College of Arts and Sciences,
South Dakota State University

Dates

1962-2005

Extent

0.21 linear feet -- 1 small document case

Language

English

Repository

Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Access note

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

Preferred Citation

Name of item. College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy and Religion Records, UA 6.12. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

Philosophy deals with the fundamental questions of life, including the nature of knowledge, the basis of morality and politics, and the rational analysis of religious beliefs. The study of Religion introduces students to the various historical and contemporary expressions of diverse religious traditions as a dimension of the human experience. The collection is composed of pamphlets, booklets, and a course announcement.

Historical Note

Prior to the establishment of the Department of Philosophy and Religion in 1968, instruction in those areas was somewhat sporadic. Area clergy occasionally taught religion courses through the college. The 1947-48 catalog first mentions this arrangement. College faculty taught philosophy courses, however.

Philosophy courses have been taught since the founding of the college. Instruction in "moral philosophy" was required by the Morrill Act, which established land grant colleges, including South Dakota State University. A chair of Psychology and Philosophy was established in 1885. A Department of Philosophy was established in 1906, and for a short while philosophy, psychology, and education courses were taught through it. Courses were moved to the Education Department in 1913 and remained there until a Department of Psychology and Philosophy was established in 1967. In 1968, these disciplines split, with psychology becoming an independent department and philosophy joining with religion.

In 1975, the department was allowed to offer the minor in philosophy and in 1978 the minor in religion. Efforts were made to develop a major in philosophy but the Board of Regents denied the request.

Students from any major may undertake the academic study of philosophy at South Dakota State University. The academic study of religion is designed to enrich the student's perspectives and introduce some of the important feature of philosophy and religion.

Philosophy and Religion is now merged into the Department of History, Political, Sciences, Philosophy, and Religion.

Contents Note

This collection is composed of material gathered by the Philosophy and Religion Department. Folders contain pamphlets, booklets and a course announcement. Also included is a lecture by Dr. Stanley L. Olsen and material from a Symposium on Education for New World Realities held in 1973.

Key Words

South Dakota State University. Department of Philosophy and Religion.

South Dakota State University. Department of History, Political, Sciences, Philosophy, and Religion.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Arranged and Described by

Crystal J. Gamradt, 1999 March 2, additions made 2008 August 14.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Land and Cultures Workshop (pamphlet)	1980
1	2	Means and Ends in Education by Stanley L. Olsen (philosophy lecture_	1962
1	3	Middle East Topics (REL 493) (course announcement)	2001
1	4	Our Agricultural Future Conference (pamphlet)	1990
1	5	Quotes on agriculture	undated
1	6	Symposium on Education for New World Realities (invitation letter)	1973
1	7	Wingspread Declaration on Religion and Public Life Conference (booklet, note SDSU representative)	2005