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Guide to the Department of Religious Studies records

University of San Diego Department of Religious Studies

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[Administrative Records, 1964-1980; 1995](#)



Guide to the Department of Religious Studies records

Overview of the Collection

Title: Department of Religious Studies records

Dates: 1964-1995

Creator: University of San Diego Department of Religious Studies

Quantity: 1 box (.5 linear feet)

Summary: These records contain correspondence, reports, and meeting minutes pertaining to the Department of Religious Studies in the early 1970s. The majority of these records pertain to discussions about the Catholicity of the merging USD College for Men and College for Women and general education requirements in religion.

Identification: USDA_1997_01

Language: English

Repository: [University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections](#)
Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-260-2730
spcoll@san Diego.edu

Historical Note

Until 1969 the College for Women and the College for Men had separate departments of theology with separate general education requirements. Catholic men, and all women, were required to take a theology course each semester. As discussions of merging the two colleges were occurring, and with personnel changes, the Department of Religious Studies became the first completely merged department in 1969. John R. Portman served as the founding chair of the Department of Religious Studies until 1974. The department professed to ensure

the academic nature of courses in religion not character formation. Religious study was, and is, part of the general education requirement for each student. In 1972, general education requirements in religion changed to nine credits for all students. In 1974, Religious Studies was added to the list of majors.

The prominent program the Department oversaw in the 1970s was the Ecumenical Center for World Religions. Founded by John R. Portman, the Center opened in January 1972 as a space to deepen students' understanding of world religions, for scholarly research about world religions, and to explore points of contact between religious traditions around the world. The Center also offered seminars each summer.

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Scope and Content Note

The Department of Religious Studies records relate to the early administration of the department, namely discussions about the merger of the College for Men and the College for Women, programs put on by the department, and discussions of general education requirements. Records largely consist of correspondence, news releases and clippings, and reports. In addition to the early 1970s administrative records, are records for the Masters in Religious Education which was first offered in 1977.

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Arrangement

These records consist of one series of Administrative Records which are arranged in chronological order.

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Restrictions

These records are open for research.

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Related Material

The M.R.E. (Masters in Religious Education) Newsletter is available for view in the University Archives and Special Collections.

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Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Portman, John R.
Jewish Chautauqua Society
University of San Diego
San Diego (Calif.)
religion (field of study)

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Administrative Information

Preferred citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Department of Religious Studies records, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Tessie Camina in 2008. It was further processed by Ashley Toutain in 2016.

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Administrative Records, 1964-1980, 1995

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Correspondence, 1969 |
| | 2 | Enrollment, 1964-1972 |
| | 3 | Catholicity of USD, 1972-1974 [News and correspondence regarding general education requirements in Religious Studies.] |
| | 4 | Conferences, 1978-1979 |

- [Conference materials for Women and Ministry and the Canon Law Institute.]
- 5 Correspondence, 1970
 - 6 Correspondence, 1971
 - 7 Correspondence, 1972
[Includes correspondence on Satanism.]
 - 8 Correspondence, 1973
[Includes correspondence with the Jewish Chautauqua Society as well as discussion about establishing a major in Religious Studies.]
 - 9 Correspondence, 1974
 - 10 Ecumenical Center for World Religions - Executive Committee Meetings, 1973-1975
 - 11 News Releases, 1975-1979
 - 12 Portman Resignation, 1974
[Includes Committee of Academic Affairs meeting minutes with the Board of Trustees on April 4, 1974 which involved discussions about the Religious Studies department.]
 - 13 Religious Education Extension Program, 1975
 - 14 Correspondence, 1984-1987
 - 15 Institute for Christian Ministries, 1986
 - 16 Masters in Religious Education, 1982
 - 17 Masters in Religious Education - History, 1977-1981
 - 18 Masters in Religious Education - Evaluation, 1982
 - 19 Masters in Religious Education - Self Study Chairman's Report, 1982
 - 20 Masters in Religious Education - Student Evaluations Report, 1982
 - 21 News Clippings, 1979-1980
 - 22 Religion 194 - Gender and Religion in the United States, 1995