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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Host 'Yoga in America' May Lecture Series

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The Cal Poly Religious Studies Program will host two events exploring the history and challenges of yoga in America on Tuesday, May 19, and May 26 on campus.

On May 19, UC Santa Barbara doctoral candidate Philip Dislippe will present "The Lost Early History of Yoga in America," at 7 p.m. in the Baker Center for Sciences & Mathematics (No. 180), Room 101. His talk will focus on yoga's 130-year history in the U.S. and how it has shifted over time. Dislippe's overview of early-American yoga will include information on traveling teachers, public scandals, secret teachings, and claims to mental and magical power.

On May 26, Cal Poly faculty member Anna Pokazanyeva will talk on "From Turbans to Yoga Pants: Race, Sex and the Feminization of American Yoga" at 7 p.m. in the Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering Building (No. 8), Room 123. Pokazanyeva, also a UCSB doctoral candidate, will discuss how mainstream yoga culture continues to be branded the "bastard child" of an ancient practice. One columnist recently wrote that yoga had been "shamelessly co-opted by Western culture as a sport for skinny, rich white women." Pokazanyeva will explore the complex history of racial profiling, sexual politics and spiritual privilege that underlies this phenomenon and its implications within the context of modern American yoga.

The free, public events are sponsored by the Cal Poly Religious Studies Program, Philosophy Department, and College of Liberal Arts.

Links

- Religious Studies Program: http://cla.calpoly.edu/rels/rels_about.htm
- Philosophy Department: <http://cla.calpoly.edu/phil.html>
- College of Liberal Arts: <http://cla.calpoly.edu/>

About the Cal Poly Religious Studies Program

The Cal Poly Religious Studies program is dedicated to the objective study of the many forms religion takes around the world from a variety of perspectives. Part of the Philosophy Department in the College of Liberal Arts, the program offers students a minor option in religious studies. The program's slogan "Understanding, Convivencia, Peace," represents its dedication to understanding other points of view, embracing diversity, practicing productive harmony, and moving toward peace. Through the program, students gain an understanding of diverse cultures and people, cross-cultural approaches, and respect for other values and truths.

About the Cal Poly Philosophy Department

At Cal Poly, the Philosophy Department fosters interdisciplinary work by teaching students how to examine critical issues of today and tomorrow. Students graduate with critical thinking and communication skills that provide an excellent foundation for a number of career paths. Graduates typically earn high scores on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

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