

UMBC UGC Instructions for Change in Existing Course Form (Revised 2/2015)

Course number & title: Enter the current course number and title of the course at the top of the page.

Date submitted: The date that the form will be submitted to the UGC.

Effective date: The semester that the change will be effective, if approved.

Contact information: Provide the contact information of the Chair or UPD of the department housing the course. If the course is not housed in a department or program, then provide the same information for the head of the appropriate academic unit. (See UGC Procedures.) If another faculty member should also be contacted for questions about the request and be notified about UGC actions on the request, include that person's contact information on the second line.

Course information: Provide all of the current information for this course. Check the "change" column for aspects of the course that will be changed by this proposal and provide the specific changes. Unchanged fields may be left blank under the "proposed" column. *Note: all 300- and 400-level courses must have prerequisites or recommended preparation.*

Course number: For cross-listed courses, provide all the numbers for the course.

Transcript title: Limited to 30 characters, including spaces. Leave the current transcript title blank if this is not known.

Recommended Course Preparation: *Please note that all 300 and 400 level courses should have either recommended course preparation(s) or prerequisite(s) and that 100 or 200 level courses may have them.*

Here fill in what previous course(s) a student should have taken to succeed in the course. These recommendations will NOT be enforced by the registration system. Please explain your choices in the "rationale" (discussed below).

Prerequisite: *Please note that all 300 and 400 level courses should have either recommended course preparation(s) or prerequisite(s)* Here fill in course(s) students need to have taken before they enroll in this course. These prerequisites will be enforced through the registration system. Please explain your choices in the "rationale" (discussed below).

NOTE: Please use the words "AND" and "OR", along with parentheses as appropriate, in the lists of prerequisites and recommended preparation so that the requirements specified will be interpreted unambiguously.

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.

Maximum total credits: This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.

Grading method(s): Check all that apply.

Current catalog description: Provide the course description as it appears in the current undergraduate catalog or since the last UGC-approved change.

Proposed catalog description: If this proposal involves a change in the course description, provide the exact wording of the course description as it will appear in the next undergraduate catalog. Course descriptions should be a) no longer than 75 words, b) stated in complete sentences, and c) avoid reference to specific details that may not always pertain (e.g., dates, events, etc.). Leave blank if this proposal does not change the course description. Course descriptions should not repeat information about prerequisites (which are always listed alongside the course description).

Rationale: Provide a brief explanation for the need for the proposed changes.

Cross-listed courses: Requests to change cross-listed courses must be accompanied by letters of support via email from all involved department chairs. Proposals for the addition of a cross-listing to an existing course must include as a part of the rationale the specific reason why cross-listing is appropriate. Email from all involved department chairs is also required when cross-listing is removed and when a cross-listed course is discontinued. Please note that Special Topics cannot be cross-listed.

Note: the UGC form is a Microsoft Word form. You should be able to enter most of the information by tabbing through the fields. The document is protected. In the rare case that you need to unprotect the document, use the password 'ugcform'. Beware that you will lose all the data entered in the form's fields if you unlock and lock the document.

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: PHIL 499: Advanced Topics in Philosophy

Date Submitted: 06/02/2016

Proposed Effective Date: immediately

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Steve Yalowitz	yalowitz@umbc.edu	5-2108	Philosophy
Other Contact	Nafi Shahegh	shahegh@umbc.edu	5-2103	Philosophy

COURSE INFORMATION: (please provide all information in the “current” column, and only the information changing in the “proposed” column)

change		current	proposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Number(s)	PHIL 499	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Advanced Topics in Philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation	Two courses in Philosophy or permission of the instructor	One 300 level course in philosophy with a grade of C or better
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better.		One course in philosophy with a grade of C or better
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits	3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Max. Total Credits		12.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grading Method(s)	X <input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) X <input type="checkbox"/> Audit X <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A detailed examination either of a major area of philosophical inquiry (such as metaphysics, theory of knowledge) or of a specialized topic within one of these areas (such as the philosophy of space and time, the nature of causality, mathematical logic). This course is repeatable for credit.

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (no longer than 75 words): leave blank if no changes are being proposed to the catalog description. NOTE: information about prerequisites should NOT appear in the catalog description.)

An advanced examination of a central topic, movement or figure in either the history of philosophy or contemporary philosophy. This course is repeatable for credit with different topics up to four times, totaling no more than 12 credits.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

1. Recommended Preparation change: The proposed change would capture the key point that PHIL 499 is at a higher level than 300 level courses, and so we are recommending that students have taken at least one 300 level course before taking PHIL 499 – not simply any two philosophy courses, as with the current Recommended Preparation (which is consistent with having taken two 100 level courses).
2. Prerequisite change: Currently this course had no prerequisites at all, but it is at a higher level (400 level) than our 300 level courses, yet all of our 300s require one course in philosophy with a grade of C or better or permission of the instructor. This makes little sense. We are altering the prerequisites for all of our 400 level courses in this way in order to encourage enrollment but still require some philosophy background.
3. Description change: We prefer the more general and more flexible proposed description because it better captures the variety of courses that we have regularly been offering under PHIL 499. The proposed description also clarifies that it can be repeated up to four times only with different topics for a maximum total of 12 credits.
4. PHIL 499 is identical in content to PHIL 498. They should have identical catalog descriptions.