

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: PHIL454: Animals and the Environment: Moral Theory and its Application

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)	454	354
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Animals and the Environment: Moral Theory and its Application	Ethics, Animals, and the Environment
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)	Animals and the Environment: Moral	Ethics, Animals, Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation		
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better.	Two courses in Philosophy, at least one at the 300 level, with a grade of “C” or better, or permission of the instructor	One course in Philosophy with a grade of C or better
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits	3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NoX	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Max. Total Credits		Max. 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.
<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:

Do we stand in moral relations to animals? Can we owe things to the environment? This is a moral theory course that focuses on the understanding and critical assessment of various philosophers' attempts to answer these questions. In the course of examining these theories, a number of more concrete questions will come up, for example, scientific questions about the natures of animals and of the environment and about the potential effects of human activities. In addition, a number of particular moral questions arise, such as: Is it acceptable to have animals for pets or to eat them? Are zoos morally permissible? Is the intentional (or negligent) extermination of a species ever morally justified? This is a seminar for students with a strong background in philosophy, environmental sciences or policy.

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.)

A survey of central issues concerning the moral status of non-human animals and the natural world, focusing on questions concerning the obligations, if any, that humans owe to them. Topics to be discussed include: the existence and nature of animal rights; ethical issues concerning animal experimentation, zoos, and owning pets; vegetarianism; whether the environment has intrinsic or derived value; obligations concerning development of sustainable resources; climate change and obligations to future generations. Readings will be drawn from classical and contemporary sources.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

We have already converted two other courses (Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Language), which we had been offering at the 400 level, to the 300 level, because they are primarily survey courses rather than topic courses, and we believe that such courses serve our majors, and the university generally, better in an intermediate rather than advanced format. Offering “Ethics, Animals, and the Environment” at the 300 level will allow for larger enrollments and will also provide a gateway survey course to prepare students for a more advanced course on a related, focused issue at the 400 level. PHIL 454 was already being taught as a survey course, so there will be no change in content, though the presentation will be altered to accommodate a larger audience who have less preparation. We expect this course to draw widely from across the university at the 300 level, given the pressing relevance of the topics.

We are standardizing the prerequisites of all of our 300 level courses so as to require one course in philosophy with a grade of C or better.