UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: PHIL 498: Advanced Topics in Philosophy

Date Submitted: 11/07/15   Proposed Effective Date: immediately

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

change		current	proposed
☐	Course Number(s)	PHIL 498	
☐	Formal Title	Advanced Topics in Philosophy	
☐	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
X☐	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☐	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 or permission of the instructor
☐	Credits	3	
☐	Repeatable?	X☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
☐	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.
☐	Grading Method(s)	☐ Reg (A-F) ☐ Audit ☐ Pass-Fail	☐ Reg (A-F) ☐ Audit ☐ Pass-Fail

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION

See PHIL 499 for course description. 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.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

1. Recommended Preparation change: The proposed change would capture the key point that PHIL 498 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 498 – 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 as 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.

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 498. The proposed description also clarifies that it can be taken repeatedly only with different topics.

4. PHIL 498 is identical in content to PHIL 499. They should have identical catalog descriptions, hence the change in description.