

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: PHIL 452: Advanced Topics in Ethics

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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Number(s)	452	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Advanced Topics in Ethics	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation		One 300 level course in philosophy with a grade of C or better, especially PHIL 350, PHIL 355
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better.	You must complete (2) PHIL courses (at least one 300 level), with a grade of C or better to take this class.	One course in philosophy with a grade of C or better
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Max. Total Credits	6	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)	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An intensive analysis of significant positions in historical or contemporary moral theory. Examples might include Greek ethics, utilitarianism, contemporary concepts of rights and obligations. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 6 credits or 2 attempts.

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 topic, figure or movement in the history of ethics or contemporary ethics. This course is repeatable with different topics for a maximum of 6 credits.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

1. Possible topics needn't be included in the course description, since they appear elsewhere in the catalog entry. "Ethics" is wider and more flexible than "moral theory", and matches the course title. Clarifies that the course is repeatable only with different topics.

2. Recommended Preparation change: The proposed change would capture the key point that PHIL 452 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 452 – not simply any two philosophy courses, as with the current Recommended Preparation (which is consistent with having taken two 100 level courses). And PHIL 350 and PHIL 355 are especially useful preparations for PHIL 452

We do want two distinct recommendations for all of our 400 level courses: that the student have taken SOME 300 level philosophy, and that the noted ones are especially helpful because of their particular content. If we are forced to choose between these distinct recommendations (which we think is really a mistake), then we will choose "one philosophy course at the 300 level" rather than recommendations of particular courses. But we think that students should be aware of both facts — that the course is conducted at a higher level than 300 level courses, and that the content of particular courses at the 300 level is supportive of the content in this particular 400 level course.

3. Prerequisite change: We are altering the prerequisites for all of our 400 level courses in this way in order to encourage enrollment.