

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: PHIL 471: Freedom, Determinism and Responsibility

Date Submitted: 11/07/15

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)	471	
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Freedom, Determinism and Responsibility	Freedom, Determinism, and Responsibility
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation	Two courses in philosophy or permission of instructor.	One 300 level course in philosophy with a grade of C or better, especially PHIL 380, PHIL 350, PHIL 371, PHIL 373
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		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<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)	<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:

A survey of different conceptions of human freedom, moral responsibility, and how they relate to deterministic and indeterministic pictures of the natural world. Topics to be considered may include: the compatibility of freedom and moral responsibility with determinism, the relation between choice and personal identity, the conceivability of life without freedom or responsibility, and competing conceptions of punishment. Readings will be drawn from historical and contemporary sources.

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.)

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

1. Change in Prerequisites: 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. Currently there are no prerequisites at all for

PHIL 471, although it is at a higher level than our 300 level courses, all of which require at least one course in philosophy. This makes no sense.

2. Recommended Preparation change: The proposed change would capture the key point that PHIL 471 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 471 – not simply any two philosophy courses, as with the current Recommended Preparation (which is consistent with having taken two 100 level courses). And PHIL 380, PHIL 350, PHIL 371 and PHIL 373 are especially useful preparations for PHIL 471.

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. Title Change: Simply adding a comma after “...Determinism”.