

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: PHIL 481: Ancient 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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Number(s)	481	
X <input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Ancient Philosophy	Advanced Topics in Ancient Philosophy
<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 321
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:

Advanced work on one or more figures or issues in ancient Greek philosophy. Possible topics include the pre- Socratics, Plato and/or Aristotle, Plato’s epistemology, Aristotle’s philosophy of biology, ancient skepticism, Stoicism and the early Platonists. Please see the current Schedule of Courses for further details.

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 one or more figures, movements, or issues in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. This course is repeatable up to 6 credits with different topics.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

1. New description differs in removing possible topics (since they are included elsewhere in the catalog entry) and in clarifying that the course is repeatable only with different topics and isn't limited to ancient Greek philosophy.
2. Particular possible topics needn't be included in course description since they are included elsewhere in catalog description.
3. Title change reflects that this is a topics course, and that it is at an advanced level.
4. 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.

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.

5. Change in Recommended preparations: The proposed change would capture the key point that PHIL 481 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 481. And PHIL 321 is an especially useful preparation for PHIL 481.