**UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course:** STAT 490 Special Topics in Statistics

**Date Submitted:** 10/03/15  
**Proposed Effective Date:** Spring 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Dept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept Chair or UPD</td>
<td>Matthias K. Gobbert</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gobbert@umbc.edu">gobbert@umbc.edu</a></td>
<td>x5-2404</td>
</tr>
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<td>Janet Burgee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jburgee@umbc.edu">jburgee@umbc.edu</a></td>
<td>x5-2401</td>
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**COURSE INFORMATION:** (please provide all information in the “current” column, and only the information changing in the “proposed” column)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>change</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Course Number(s)</td>
<td>STAT 490</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Formal Title</td>
<td>Special Topics in Statistics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Transcript Title (≤30c)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>☑ Recommended Course Preparation</td>
<td></td>
<td>STAT 355 or STAT 451 or STAT 453</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Prerequisite</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Credits</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Repeatable?</td>
<td>☑ Yes ☐ No</td>
<td>☑ Yes ☐ No</td>
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<tr>
<td>☑ Max. Total Credits</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Grading Method(s)</td>
<td>☑ Reg (A-F) ☑ Audit ☑ Pass-Fail</td>
<td>☑ Reg (A-F) ☑ Audit ☑ Pass-Fail</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

[The “description” that appears in SA for all Special Topics courses is a concatenation of sub-titles of previous courses. It is not an actual description of a Special Topics course.]

**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 Special Topics course covers material that is not available in a regular course, but is suitable for coverage at this level. Notes attached to the course in a particular semester will describe the actual contents. This course can be repeated once for credit, if the topic of the course is different.

**RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:**

This request fixes the setup of this course in SA. (i) A proper description helps students understand the role of a Special Topics course. (ii) The course should be repeatable once, if the topics of the course is different; that is, since we typically offer regular courses with 3 or 4 credits, the max. total credits should be 8. The variable-credit is correct. (iii) Recommended pre-requisite indicates typical level of preparation needed.