

## UMBC UGC Instructions for New Course Request Form (revised 4/2016)

**Course number & title:** Enter the number and title of the course at the top of the page. Contact the Registrar's Office to confirm that the desired course number is available.

**Date submitted:** The date that the form will be submitted to the UGC.

**Effective date:** The semester the new course is in effect, if approved.

**Contact information:** Provide the contact information of the Chair or UPD of the department or program housing the course. If the course is not housed in a department or program, then provide the same information for the head of the appropriate academic unit. (See UGC Procedures) If another faculty member should also be contacted for questions about the request and be notified about UGC actions on the request, include that person's contact information on the second line.

**Course number:** For cross-listed courses, provide all the numbers for the new course.

**Transcript title:** Limited to 30 characters, including spaces.

**Recommended Course Preparation:** *Please note that all 300 and 400 level courses should have either recommended course preparation(s) or prerequisite(s) and that 100 or 200 level courses may have them.*

Here fill in what previous course(s) a student should have taken to succeed in the course. These recommendations will NOT be enforced by the registration system. Please explain your choices in the "rationale" (discussed below).

**Prerequisite:** *Please note that all 300 and 400 level courses should have either recommended course preparation(s) or prerequisite(s)* Here fill in course(s) students need to have taken before they enroll in this course. These prerequisites will be enforced through the registration system. Please explain your choices in the "rationale" (discussed below).

**NOTE:** Please use the words "AND" and "OR", along with parentheses as appropriate, in the lists of prerequisites and recommended preparation so that the requirements specified will be interpreted unambiguously.

**NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.

**# of credits:** To determine the appropriate number of credits to assign to a course please refer to the [UMBC Credit Hour Policy](#) which articulates the standards for assignment and application of credit hours to all courses and programs of study at UMBC regardless of degree level, teaching and learning formats, and mode of instruction.

**Maximum 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):** Check all that apply.

**Proposed catalog description:** Provide the exact wording of the course description as it will appear in the next undergraduate catalog. Course proposals should be a) no longer than 75 words, b) stated in declarative sentences in language accessible to students, and c) avoid reference to specific details that may not always pertain (e.g., dates, events, etc.). Course descriptions should not repeat information about prerequisites (which are always listed alongside the course description)."

**Rationale:** Please explain the following:

- a) Why is there a need for this course at this time?
- b) How often is the course likely to be taught?
- c) How does this course fit into your department's curriculum?
- d) What primary student population will the course serve?
- e) Why is the course offered at the level (ie. 100, 200, 300, or 400 level) chosen?
- f) Explain the appropriateness of the recommended course preparation(s) and prerequisite(s).
- g) Explain the reasoning behind the P/F or regular grading method.
- h) Provide a justification for the repeatability of the course.

**Cross-listed courses:** Requests to create cross-listed courses must be accompanied by letters of support via email from all involved department chairs. Proposals for new courses or the addition of a cross-listing to an existing course must include as a part of the rationale the specific reason why cross-listing is appropriate. Email from all involved department chairs is also required when cross-listing is removed and when a cross-listed course is discontinued. Please note that Special Topics courses cannot be cross-listed.

**Course Outline:** Provide a syllabus with main topics and a weekly assignment schedule which includes complete citations for readings with page numbers as appropriate. Explain how students' knowledge and skills will be assessed.

*Note: the UGC form is a Microsoft Word form. You should be able to enter most of the information by tabbing through the fields. The document is protected. In the rare case that you need to unprotect the document, use the password 'ugcform'. Beware that you will lose all the data entered in the form's fields if you unlock and lock the document.*

## UMBC UGC New Course Request: PHIL 478: Philosophy and Evolution

Date Submitted: 9/13/17

Proposed Effective Date: immediately

|                   | Name           | Email             | Phone | Dept       |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|------------|
| Dept Chair or UPD | Steve Yalowitz | yalowitz@umbc.edu | 52108 | Philosophy |
| Other Contact     | Nafi Shahegh   | shahegh@umbc.edu  | 52103 | Philosophy |

### COURSE INFORMATION:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Course Number(s)  | PHIL 478  |
| Formal Title  | Philosophy and Evolution  |
| Transcript Title (≤30c)   | Philosophy and Evolution  |
| Recommended Course Preparation  | One 300 level course in philosophy, especially PHIL 372, PHIL 394   |
| Prerequisite<br><b>NOTE:</b> 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  |
| # of Credits<br>Must adhere to the <a href="#">UMBC Credit Hour Policy</a>  | 3   |
| Repeatable?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NoX   |
| Max. Total Credits  | 3 <small>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.</small> |
| Grading Method(s)   | <input type="checkbox"/> XReg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> XAudit <input type="checkbox"/> XPass-Fail   |

### PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (no longer than 75 words):

An examination of central philosophical debates about the theory of evolution, including foundational issues and broader implications of the theory. Topics may include: What is natural selection and "survival of the fittest"? In what sense are organisms adapted to their environments? Can we make sense of the idea of "human nature"? What does evolutionary theory imply about groupings of individuals? Can evolutionary theory be used to explain social, ethical, or psychological phenomena? Prior knowledge of evolutionary theory is not required.

### RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

Dr. Jessica Pfeifer has taught this course as a special topics course under PHIL 498: Advanced Topics in Philosophy, numerous times. The course enrolls to capacity and Dr. Pfeifer plans to continue teaching it as part of her regular rotation of courses, every two years. It therefore makes sense to have it as a regular course in the catalog. The course is intended for philosophy majors or those with background in philosophy, and is to be offered at our most advanced level. It will go towards fulfilling the philosophy major requirement of two 400 level courses. Because of the advanced level of the topic, we want it to be taught at the 400 level, with the enrollment capped at 20 students, to allow for high level discussion and attract students with adequate background in philosophy. The recommended course preparations listed are our 300 level survey courses in Philosophy of Science (PHIL 372) and Philosophy of Biology (394), both of which will provide good background for PHIL 478. As with all our courses, we want students to have the option of auditing, taking P/F or for a grade.

**ATTACH COURSE OUTLINE (mandatory):**  
See attached syllabus