

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: PHIL 251: Ethical Issues in Science and Engineering

Date Submitted: 10/15/2018

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)	PHIL 251	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Ethical Issues in Science and Engineering	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits	3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NoX	<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)	X <input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) X <input type="checkbox"/> Audit X <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The primary focus of the course will be inquiry into the ethical responsibilities of scientists, engineers, and information technologists in today's high-tech, information-oriented society. Students will be introduced to both historical and contemporary issues involving ethical and professional responsibility through an extensive discussion and analysis of case studies. The key feature of the course will involve learning how to conduct an ethical analysis and then learning how to apply this analysis to a case study. Teams will be formed early in the semester so each group can meet and discuss case studies before they are discussed in class and before written assignments are due. Each team also will be required to engage in an extended case study project that will culminate in a team presentation of the case study in a PowerPoint format. Note: Philosophy students may not count PHIL 251 and PHIL 252 towards the major. Credit will not be given for both PHIL 251 and ENES 251.

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.)

This course focuses on the ethical responsibilities of engineers and information technologists. Students will analyze case studies and the content of professional codes of ethics using the tools of moral philosophy, with the goal of helping them to better understand and address morally significant problems that will arise in their careers, including: resolving tensions between competing values, taking responsibility for failure, communicating risk, and fulfilling duties to various stakeholders concerning safety and environmental impact.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

This updates the previous course description, making it more closely fit the content of the course as it is taught now. The previous description also highlighted team projects and a powerpoint ethical analysis project as key to the course. The course is no longer taught with this focus. Further, the philosophy Department no longer wants to prevent philosophy majors from counting PHIL 251 towards the major requirements.

course change form for UGC for PHIL 251, with support email from Engineering chair

1 message

Steve Yalowitz <yalowitz@umbc.edu>
To: Rose Drohan <rdrohan@umbc.edu>
Cc: "Dr. Terrance Worchesky" <worchesk@umbc.edu>

Fri, Oct 12, 2018 at 11:14 AM

Hi Rose,

Attached is a resubmission of a course change form for PHIL 251. I've also forwarded an email from the Mechanical Engineering Chair, Ruey-Hung Chen, supporting our proposed course description change. Please let me know if you need further information.

Thanks
Steve

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ruey-Hung Chen <chenrh@umbc.edu>
Subject: Re: course description for PHIL 251
Date: October 12, 2018 at 11:07:29 AM EDT
To: "L.D. Timmie (Tim) Topoleski" <topolesk@umbc.edu>
Cc: yalowitz@umbc.edu

Hello, Steve:

ME's undergraduate committee looked at the description of PHIL 251 in spring and has no objection to it. I concur with our undergraduate committee.

Ray

On Fri, Oct 12, 2018 at 8:53 AM L.D. Timmie (Tim) Topoleski <topolesk@umbc.edu> wrote:

Dear Steve,

My apologies. I am no longer Chair of ME. Dr. Chen has been in that role since August. I'm sorry that we never informed you. I'm copying Dr. Chen to this email.

Thank you,

Tim

On Fri, Oct 12, 2018 at 8:43 AM Steve Yalowitz <yalowitz@umbc.edu> wrote:

Tim,

I've attached the UGC course change form that we're submitting to UGC next week. I do need an email letter of support from you, saying that you approve of the changes in the course description that we are requesting. Could you please respond to this email with that support email by next week? In particular, in the original course description ENES 251 is mentioned. It is no longer offered by COEIT, and we need the support email from you to acknowledge this and approve the rest of the course description change.

Thanks,
Steve

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ChangeCourseForm_PHIL 251.doc

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