

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Philosophy Dept.

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Proposed Effective Date: immediately

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Specifics (see instructions):

1. The Philosophy Dept. wants to update the list of courses that meet the Ethics requirement of the Philosophy Major and Philosophy Minor. This would codify what we have already been doing through the use of petitions to the Department Chair.

2. We also want to reformulate the presentation (but not the substance) of the content currently contained under "NOTE:" on the page in the catalog that presents part of the Philosophy Major Requirements

1. The current list of courses that meet the Major Ethics requirement is as follows:

- PHIL 350 – Ethical Theory (3.00)
- PHIL 355 – Political Philosophy (3.00)
- PHIL 356 – Philosophy of Law (3.00)
- PHIL 358 – Bioethics (3.00)

We would like the list to be expanded to include PHIL 353, PHIL 354, and PHIL 357, in numerical order:

- PHIL 350 – Ethical Theory (3.00)
- PHIL 353 – Morality and Psychology
- PHIL 354 – Ethics, Animals, and the Environment
- PHIL 355 – Political Philosophy (3.00)
- PHIL 356 – Philosophy of Law (3.00)
- PHIL 357 – Philosophy and Human Rights (3.00)
- PHIL 358 – Bioethics (3.00)

The current list of courses that meet the Minor Ethics requirement is as follows:

- PHIL 150 – Contemporary Moral Issues (3.00)
- PHIL 152 – Introduction to Moral Theory (3.00)
- PHIL 251 – Ethical Issues in Science and Engineering (3.00)
- PHIL 350 – Ethical Theory (3.00)
- PHIL 355 – Political Philosophy (3.00)
- PHIL 356 – Philosophy of Law (3.00)
- PHIL 358 – Bioethics (3.00)
- PHIL 452 – Advanced Topics in Ethics (3.00)
- PHIL 354 – Ethics, Animals, and the Environment

We would like the list to be expanded (and re-ordered numerically) to include PHIL 353, PHIL 357, PHIL 450, PHIL 482, PHIL 486, and PHIL 487:

- PHIL 150 – Contemporary Moral Issues (3.00)
- PHIL 152 – Introduction to Moral Theory (3.00)
- PHIL 251 – Ethical Issues in Science and Engineering (3.00)
- PHIL 350 – Ethical Theory (3.00)

- PHIL 353 – Morality and Psychology (3.00)
- PHIL 354 – Ethics, Animals, and the Environment (3.00)
- PHIL 355 – Political Philosophy (3.00)
- PHIL 356 – Philosophy of Law (3.00)
- PHIL 357 – Philosophy and Human Rights
- PHIL 358 – Bioethics (3.00)
- PHIL 450 – Metaethics (3.00)
- PHIL 452 – Advanced Topics in Ethics (3.00)
- PHIL 482 – Aristotle’s Ethics
- PHIL 486 – Kant’s Moral and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 487 – Hegel and Marx

2. Finally, we want to change the presentation (though not the content) of the additional requirements for the Philosophy Major. Currently, there is a NOTE:

Over and above the courses used to satisfy the Logic, Ethics, History and Metaphysics/Epistemology requirements: At least six credits at the 400 level (none of which can be [PHIL 400](#), [PHIL 405](#), or [PHIL 406](#)) and at least six additional credits at the 300 or 400 level (at most one [PHIL 400](#), but neither [PHIL 405](#) nor [PHIL 406](#), can count toward these credits). Students must earn at least a C in all courses that meet requirements for the Philosophy Major.

We would like this content presented in the following way, not preceded by “NOTE”:

Two courses at the 400-level

Students select any two courses (6.00 credits) at the 400-level. Neither PHIL 400, PHIL 405, nor PHIL 406 can count toward this requirement.

Two additional courses at the 300-level or 400-level

Students select any two additional courses (6.00 credits) at the 300-level or 400-level over and above courses used to satisfy the Logic, Ethics, History, Metaphysics/Epistemology, and 400-level requirements. At most one PHIL 400 course can count towards this requirement. Neither PHIL 405 nor PHIL 406 can count toward this requirement.

Three additional electives

Students select any three additional courses (9.00 credits) at any level.

Note: Students must earn at least a C in all courses that meet requirements for the Philosophy Major.

Rationale (see instructions):

1. The courses we’d like to add to the Major and Minor Ethics requirement course lists have all been added to our catalog in the past few years. Rather than continue to require students to petition the Department chair for these new courses to be allowed to count toward the requirements, we think it makes sense to codify them in the requirements themselves. Many students aren’t aware that the new courses can meet the requirements because of how the current lists are formulated.

2. Students are often confused by the requirements currently expressed in the NOTE. It is very compressed. The proposed reformulation of the requirements contained under “NOTE:” in the current catalog is clearer and more explicit about the requirements than the presentation under NOTE currently being used in the catalog. No substantive changes to requirements have been made in the proposed reformulation.