

UMBC UGC Instructions for New Course Request Form (revised 2/2015)

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.

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 430: Decision Theory

Date Submitted: 1/22/2019

Proposed Effective Date: as soon as possible

	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:

Course Number(s)	PHIL 430
Formal Title	Decision Theory
Transcript Title (≤30c)	Decision Theory
Recommended Course Preparation	One 300 level course in philosophy with a grade of C or better, especially PHIL 346, PHIL 371, PHIL 372, PHIL 380
Prerequisite NOTE: 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
Credits	3
Repeatable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NoX
Max. Total Credits	<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)	X <input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) X <input type="checkbox"/> Audit X <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (no longer than 75 words):

This course is a philosophical examination of decision theory, which attempts to give an account of how we should make decisions whose outcomes depend upon facts about which we are uncertain. Part of the course focuses on puzzle cases where competing approaches to decision making yield different results. Other topics to be considered include whether our best approaches to decision making are psychologically feasible, and whether and how decision theory should accommodate our different attitudes towards risk.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

Dr. Lisa Cassell has taught this course once before as a special topics course and plans to teach it in Spring 2020, and then regularly every two years thereafter as part of her standard rotation of courses. 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 as well as the Upper Division Certificate in Philosophy, Logic, and Science. 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 courses that pertain to logic, philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, and epistemology, since PHIL 430: Decision Theory touches on all of these areas at an advanced level. 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