




MEMORANDUM

FINAL FACULTY SENATE APPROVAL ON MARCH 10, 2015

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Jack Kirby 
DATE: January 28, 2015
SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposal #14-15-17, REV #1
Department of Social Sciences, PHIL 2200

I recommend approval of the attached REVISION #1, Curriculum Proposal #14-15-17. This proposal requests to change the course description for PHIL 2200: Introduction to Philosophy.

C: Dr. Christina Lavorata
Dr. Deanna Shields
Dr. Diana Noone
Dr. Adam Podlaskowski
Ms. Leslie Lovett
Ms. Cheri Varkonda



CURRICULUM PROPOSAL (Submit one hard copy and an electronic copy to the Associate Provost by the second Tuesday of the month.)

Proposal Number: #14-15-17 REVISION #1

School/Department/Program: College of Liberal Arts, Social Science, Philosophy

Preparer/Contact Person: Dr. Adam C. Podlaskowski

Telephone Extension: 4935

Date Originally Submitted: 11/12/2014

**Revision (Indicate date and label it
Revision #1, #2, etc.):** 1/27/2015

Implementation Date Requested: Fall 2015

- I. **PROPOSAL.** Write a brief abstract, not exceeding 100 words, which describes the overall content of the proposal.

The proposal is to change the course description for PHIL 2200, Introduction to Philosophy.

- II. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL.** Provide a response for each letter, A-H, and for each Roman Numeral II-V. If any section does not apply to your proposal, reply N/A.

- A. Deletion of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

Total hours deleted. None

- B. Addition of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

Total hours added. None

- C. Provision for interchangeable use of course(s) with program(s)

N/A

- D. Revision of course content. Include, as an appendix, a revised course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the university catalog.

SEE APPENDIX A

- E. Other changes to existing courses such as changes to title, course number, and elective or required status.

N/A

- F. Creation of new course(s). For each new course

1. Include, as an appendix, a course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the college catalog.

N/A

2. Include, as an appendix, a detailed course outline consisting of at least two levels.

N/A

3. In order to meet the requirements as outlined in Goal One of the Strategic Plan, please include Outcome Competencies and Methods of Assessment as an appendix. Examples are available upon request from the Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

N/A

- G. Attach an itemized summary of the present program(s) affected, if any, and of the proposed change(s).

N/A

III. **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSAL.**

- A. **Quantitative Assessment:** Indicate the types of assessment data, i.e., surveys, interviews, capstone courses, projects, licensure exams, nationally-normed tests, locally developed measurements, accreditation reports, etc., that were collected and analyzed to determine that curricular changes were warranted. Quantitative data is preferred.

The original course description is misleading. It reads:

A survey of the principal problems and theoretical responses which have come from man's attempts to organize his experience and direct his existence. The ideas of individual thinkers (Socrates, Plato, St. Augustine, Bruno, Locke, Sartre, Heidegger, et al.) and schools of interpretation (rationalist, empiricist, pragmatic) are highlighted.

This description wrongly places the emphasis on philosophical figures when the course is topic-based. Moreover, nearly half of the figures mentioned in the original description (i.e., St. Augustine, Bruno, and Heidegger) have little place in an introductory course.

- B. **Qualitative Assessment:** Based upon the assessment data above, indicate why a curricular change is justified. Indicate the expected results of the change. Be sure to include an estimate of the increased cost, or reduction in cost of implementation. FOR EXAMPLE: Will new faculty, facilities, equipment, or library materials be required?

Honesty demands that misleading course descriptions should be replaced with descriptions that are not misleading.

Note: No new faculty, facilities, or equipment will be needed to provide this course to the students at Fairmont State University.

- IV. Should this proposal affect any course or program in another school, a memo must be sent to the Dean of each school impacted and a copy of the memo(s) must be included with this proposal. In addition, the Deans of the affected schools must sign below to indicate their approval of this proposal.

By signing here, you are indicating your college's/school's approval of this proposal.

College/School	Dean	Signature
College of Liberal Arts	Dr. Deanna Shields	

- V. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.**

N/A

APPENDIX A

Revised Course Description:

For your convenience, the original course description has been reiterated here:

A survey of the principal problems and theoretical responses which have come from man's attempts to organize his experience and direct his existence. The ideas of individual thinkers (Socrates, Plato, St. Augustine, Bruno, Locke, Sartre, Heidegger, et al.) and schools of interpretation (rationalist, empiricist, pragmatic) are highlighted.

The revised course description follows:

Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 2200 FSU 3 hrs.

This course serves as a general, topic-based introduction to philosophy. Philosophy wrestles with the enduring questions of life, including: Can we know anything about the external world? How do minds relate to the physical world? Do we have free will? How can someone change so dramatically over time and yet remain the same person? And does God exist? While these sorts of questions are difficult to resolve, this course emphasizes the skills needed to tackle them: to think critically, to construct and evaluate chains of reasoning, and consider many perspectives on any given subject—all of which are highly transferable to other fields.