

Curriculum Committee

April 18, 2014 – Student Senate Room (HUB 119)

MINUTES

Present: Elizabeth A. Ahl (Chair), Christian Bisson, Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), George T. Gilmore, Barbara D. Lopez-Mayhew, David A. Mackey, Holly E. Oliver, Hilary K. Swank, David Zehr [eight voting members]

Absent: Joseph Boisvert (student, voting), Rebecca L. Busanich (new faculty observer, non-voting) Roxana Fera (President's Commission on Diversity, non-voting)

Excused: Michele L. Pruyn

Vacant: one student member

Presenters of Proposals: Marcia Schmidt Blaine, Maria A. Sanders

Note: *Unless otherwise indicated, all curricular changes noted below will become effective with the 2015-2016 edition of the Academic Catalog.* Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

I. The minutes of the February 21, 2014 meeting stand as written.

II. New Business

A. History, Philosophy, and Social Studies Education:

1. New course: HIDI 1211 Modern United States History (3 credits) Examine several broad themes and problems in modern US history from Reconstruction through the present, such as industrialization and its social, economic, and political ramifications; westward expansion; immigration; the emergence of the US as a world power; cultural and intellectual developments; movements for social change. Springs. (PPDI) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*

2. Delete:

- a. PY 1400 Women and Religion
 - b. PY 2200 Ideas of the Old Testament (GACO)
 - c. PY 2210 New Testament Thought (GACO)
 - d. PY 2290 Religion in America (DICO)
 - e. PY 2630 The Concept of Death
 - f. PY 3210 Comparing World Religions
 - g. PY 3450 Enlightenment, Love, and Literature
 - h. PY 3460 Sexual Ethics (INCO)
 - i. PY 3710 Philosophy, Science, and Superstition (INCO)
 - j. Religious Studies minor
- Approved 8-0-0-2.*

3. PY 2610 Eastern Philosophy: delete course. *Approved 8-0-0-2.*

4. a. New Course: PYDI 1130 Ethics and Everyday Life (3 credits). Explores key ethical questions including: What actions are morally right? What is the good life? Encourages applying ethical theories, devising individual responses, and analyzing how individual beliefs are impacted by society. Identifies key ethical issues involving conflicts between the individual and society, while investigating interactions between individuals and the spatial, temporal, political, economic, and technological aspects of the social environment. Not open to students who have earned credit for PY 1120. Falls and Springs. (SSDI)
- b. PY 1120 Doing Right and Being Good (DICO): delete course; last offering is Spring 2016.

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Approved 8-0-0-2.

5. PY 3110 History of Philosophy I: Ancient (INCO): change title to History of Ancient Philosophy. Change course description. Change prerequisite to Junior status.
Approved 8-0-0-2.
6. a. New course: PY 3112 History of Modern Philosophy (3 credits). Explores the origin and development of modern Western philosophy arising out of an intense struggle between medieval Scholastic thought and the emerging modern science. Includes historically relevant ideas from the 17th and 18th centuries. Emphasizes written analysis of knowledge, mind/body interaction, causation, God, and reality, incorporating philosophical interpretations from mathematics, science, cosmology, medicine, rhetorical theory, aesthetics, and psychology. Springs. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (INCO)
b. PY 3120 History of Philosophy II: Modern (INCO): delete course
Approved 8-0-0-2.
7. a. New course: PY 3111 History of Medieval Philosophy (3 credits). Uses philosophy, theology, and science to explore the origin and development of medieval philosophy from the 4th century to 16th century, surveying historically relevant ideas from the Middle Ages through Medieval Scholasticism and Pre-Enlightenment. Includes philosophical interpretations of religion, politics, science, and mathematics. Emphasizes written analysis of theology, metaphysics, natural philosophy, logic, philosophy of mind, and ethics. Falls beginning 2016. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (INCO)
b. PY 3140 Medieval Philosophy: delete course
Approved 8-0-0-2.
8. a. New course: PY 3113 History of Contemporary Philosophy (3 credits). Explores the origin and development of contemporary philosophy from 19th to 21st century, surveying historically relevant ideas from moral philosophers, social and political philosophers, phenomenologists, existentialists, pragmatists, linguists, technologists, and postmodernists. Includes philosophical interpretations of science, sociology, politics, computer science, and linguistics. Emphasizes written analysis of the nature and limits of knowledge, language, technology, reality, consciousness, and the good life. Springs. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (INCO)
b. PY 3160 History of Philosophy III: Contemporary (INCO): delete course.
Approved 8-0-0-2.
9. a. New course: PY 3515 Philosophy of World Religions (3 credits). Critically analyzes traditional and contemporary religious concepts and values that underlie the basic doctrines of the major religious faiths from around the world. Includes multiple perspectives from both Western and Eastern religions and examines how some contemporary religious and quasi-religious movements have shaped peoples, cultures, nations, and regions of the world. Springs. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (GACO) (INCO)
b. PY 3540 Philosophy of Religion (INCO): delete course.
Approved 8-0-0-2.
10. New course: PY 3050 Ethical Theories (3 credits). Provides in-depth analysis of ethical theories, methods, and problems from perspectives within various sub-cultures within US and world-wide. From classical, enlightenment, modern, and postmodern perspectives, explores the nature of moral reasoning, conceptions of the good life, free will determinism, and moral responsibility toward the other. Perspectives include philosophers, psychologists, legal analysts, and criminal justice experts. Fall of odd years. (GACO). *Approved 8-0-0-2.*

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11. New course: PY 3310 Environmental Ethics (3 credits). Uses philosophy and science to study moral relationships between humans and the environment, and considers how to ethically defend our actions on the environment and its nonhuman contents. Explores population growth, resource usage, sustainability, biodiversity loss, nonhuman animal welfare, environmental justice, and global climate change from interdisciplinary perspectives, and encourages awareness of the impact environmentally-based choices have upon mind/body wellness. Springs. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (INCO) (WECO). *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
12. New course: PY 3325 Medical Ethics (3 credits). Uses philosophy and medical science to analyze moral and legal relationships of practitioners and patients from interdisciplinary perspectives, while examining social, political, and ethical issues arising from medical and technological advancements including topics of confidentiality, truth-telling, responsibility, reproductive technologies, end of life issues, genetic engineering and enhancement, involuntary psychosurgery, and medical experimentation. Fall of even years. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (INCO) (WECO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
13. New course: PY 3330 Business Ethics (3 credits). Uses philosophy and business to investigate ethical issues in business, as a central feature for society and culture. Explores economic, social, legal, political, and environmental interests impacted by business ethics, from the perspectives of the employer, employee, local community, and global community. Topics include social and corporate responsibility, consumer rights, integrity, transparency, fairness, corruption, ecological sustainability, and other environmental responsibilities. Fall of odd years. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (DICO) (INCO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
14. New course: PY 3345 Military Ethics (3 credits). Explores historically relevant ethical theories and principles pertaining to military decision-making and action. Topics include courage, integrity, confidentiality, justice, and human rights. Investigates ethical issues and the global impact pertaining to wars, military conflicts, and humanitarian rescue efforts conducted by the US military. Spring of even years. (GACO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
15. New course: PY 3360 Ethics and Psychology (3 credits). Uses philosophy, psychology, criminal justice, and law to explore ethical conduct in the teaching, research, and practice of psychology, focusing on the connection between mind, body, and healthy living. Topics include obedience, conformity, confidentiality, dual relationships, informed consent, legal and ethical reporting, human dignity, autonomy, and social justice. Spring of even years. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (INCO) (WECO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
16. New course: PY 3370 Ethics and Communication (3 credits). Uses philosophy and communication to examine the ethical responsibilities we have as participants in diverse communication contexts; includes reading primary philosophical texts on virtue ethics, deontology, consequentialisms, and dialogic lenses. Introduces perspectives from contemporary philosophers, communication ethicists, and rhetoricians. Students are exposed to traditional philosophical theories and contemporary applications of communication ethics from political, social, and philosophical perspectives. Fall of even years. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (DICO) (INCO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
17. New course: PY 3380 Humans and Humanoids: Ethics in Technology (3 credits). Students use technology to explore ethical considerations pertaining to robotic technologies, communicative technologies, and computer networks. Topics include social and legal implications from humanoid production; impact portable technologies, i.e., cell phones, ipads, ipods, e-readers, etc., have upon consciousness and social relationships; user/programmer/hosting site responsibilities, confidentiality, cyber-bullying, storage/sharing of personal information, honesty, fairness,

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plagiarism, and harmful practices. Special focus on sustainability. Fall of even years. (TECO)
Approved 8-0-0-2.

18. New course: PY 3610 Philosophy of Technology (3 credits). Uses philosophy and computer science to explore the relationship between technology and the ideal life. Investigates social and ethical impacts of emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, drones, brain-computer interface systems, robo-sapiens, and biotechnologies utilized for cloning and genetic manipulation, paying particular attention to ways technology works to shape human experience. Includes perspectives from philosophers, computer scientists, engineers, and legal analysts. Spring of even years. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (INCO) (TECO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
19. New course: PY 3720 Philosophy of Law (3 credits). Uses philosophy and law to analyze what the law is and ought to be. Explores contemporary debates about the nature, scope, and requirements of justice, recognizing different American viewpoints. Explores how different sub-cultures in America are impacted by issues of equity, opportunity, and justice. Includes readings from philosophers, political theorists, and legal practitioners. Spring of odd years. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (DICO) (INCO). *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
20. New course: PY 3730 Philosophy of Communication (3 credits). Uses philosophy and communication to consider philosophical theories used to analyze, describe, and interpret processes of communication. Explores differences and commonalities of subcultures in relation to communication. Emphasizes questions that emerge from historical eras as entrances into exploring diverse perspectives on the nature of persons, consciousness, and social exchange in human communication. Includes perspectives from philosophers, political theorists, and rhetoricians. Spring of odd years. Prerequisite(s): Junior status. (DICO) (INCO)
Approved 8-0-0-2.
21. New course: PY 3820 Existentialism (3 credits). An examination of the historical development and basic themes of existentialism such as existence, anxiety, absurdity, nothingness, death, and alienation/estrangement. Particular attention is given to the historical period and distinguishing between various existential positions/sentiments worldwide. Identifies ways existentialism has shaped peoples, cultures, and regions of the world. Spring of odd years. (GACO)
Approved 8-0-0-2.
22. New course: PY 3830 Phenomenology (3 credits). Philosophically explores phenomenology, focusing on the study of essences as transcendental philosophy and what is left behind through space, time, and the world of experience *as* it is experienced. Identifies differences and commonalities of sub-cultural groups in American society defined by differences in race, ethnicity, ability, social class, religion, politics, gender, or sexual orientation through the lens of phenomenologists. Spring of even years. (DICO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
23. New course: PY 3840 Pragmatism (3 credits). Explores major themes in pragmatism that focus on the relationship of theory to practice (praxis) including experience, instrumentalism, knowledge and action, facts and values, and Darwinian understanding/cognition. Identifies differences and commonalities of sub-cultural groups in American society defined by differences in race, ethnicity, ability, social class, religion, politics, gender, or sexual orientation through the lens of a pragmatist. Fall of odd years. (DICO) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
24. New course: PY 3870 Non-western Philosophy (3 credits). Explores key philosophical concepts and issues from major sources of Eastern thought, such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Giota, Tao te Ching and Buddhist writings. Encourages students to develop the ability to appreciate and think about issues from different points of view, which increase understanding

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of, participation with, and responsibilities to the world community. Fall of odd years. (GACO)
Approved 8-0-0-2.

25. New course: PYDI 2415 Death and Dying (3 credits). Explores various historical and contemporary perspectives on death/dying. Readings include philosophical, psychological, sociological, practical, and artistic aspects of death, dying, and responses to human mortality. Considers how conceptions of death/dying change across time and vary between cultures. Spring of odd years. (PPDI) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
 26. New course: PYDI 2410 Creative Problem Solving in Ethics (3 credits). Introduces creative thinking tools and techniques for creating personally relevant ethical decisions in an ever-changing world. Engages traditional ethical problems such as abortion, capital punishment, and gun control, while encouraging students to view themselves as creative beings capable of tolerating ambiguity. Outlines formal elements of creative expression while encouraging creativity as an essential component in forming sound ethical judgments. Fall of even years. (CTDI) *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
 27. New course: PYDI 2710 Science or Superstition (3 credits). Utilizes scientific methodologies to investigate, analyze, and interpret data to propose answers, offer explanation, and make predictions to philosophically analyze the power and limitations of science. Distinguishes science from irrational opinion and superstition. Explores the extent science is a way to knowledge, and finds philosophical principles that can guide us in evaluating controversial beliefs. Springs. (SIDI) *Approved 4-2-2-2.*
 28. BA Philosophy: revise requirements of the major. *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
 29. New academic minor: Applied Ethics minor (15 credits). *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
 30. Philosophy minor: delete PY 1120 as a requirement; add PYDI 1130 as a requirement. *Approved 8-0-0-2.*
- B. Examination of New forms/process documents (items 1 and 2 are from the Provost and Deans; they updated the forms and got them to the Chair in February. Items 3 and 4 are drafts-in-process from Liz Ahl.)
1. Updated Curriculum Change Form
 2. Updated New Course form
 3. Procedures and Rational Draft
 4. Curriculum Matric Draft

Is there an updated Experimental Course Proposal form? Is there an updated Experimental Course Report form?

- Curriculum Committee Signature/Approval Rationale: created by Liz; discussed by the Committee
- CURRICULUM COMMITTEE Forms/Signatures (Courses): created by Liz; discussed and edited by the Committee
- CURRICULUM COMMITTEE Forms/Signatures (Programs/Majors/Minors/Certificates): created by Liz; discussed and edited by the Committee. Consultation with Library and with LTOE may or may not require a signature. If the Library signs the form, then LTOE signs the form.

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- C. Discussion of Moodle interface: Great! Really good! Have folders for each department. Labels for proposals: please label with discipline and course number. Thanks to Liz for creating the Moodle page for the Curriculum Committee!
- D. Program Review participation update: spreadsheet of Academic Program Reviews Started AY 13 and due AY 14 AND Started AY 14 and due AY 15 from Dean Vascak was distributed. "Program Review submitted" section has been created on Moodle.

III. Reports

- A. Systems Academic (formerly SAPC). No report.
- B. General Education Committee. Met April 14th and approved all of the Philosophy courses that were proposed. Discussions include clarify the procedure for obtaining/renewing a waiver; what should be on the syllabus of a General Education course; how to assess the General Education program. Next meeting is April 28th.
- C. Council of Educator Preparation. Meeting April 21st.
- D. Steering Committee. Will need prior to the May 7th Faculty meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

The Curriculum Committee meets on the third Friday of the month from 2:30 until 5:00 pm in the Student Senate room (HUB 119). Proposals need to reach the Chair 10 days prior to the meeting. Their next meeting is Friday, **May 16, 2014**.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

<http://www.plymouth.edu/committee/faculty/faculty-committees-and-appointed-groups/curriculum/forms-and-documents/> links to the Curriculum Committee **Forms** and the following documents:

- New Program Approval Process from the Provost's Office
- PSU Syllabus Checklist

A new syllabus should accompany a Curriculum Change proposal when the level of a course is changing upward (e.g., 1000 to 2000, 2000 level to 3000, 3000 level to 4000).
Approved December 20, 2013, 5-0-3-3.

These minutes were approved May 16, 2014.