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Number: 94-79
Submission Date: App 3/28/95
Action-Date: _____

Senate App 5/2/95

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

I. CONTACT

Contact Person Doel Mlecko Phone 2310
Department PH + RS

II. PROPOSAL TYPE (Check All Appropriate Lines)

COURSE Philosophy of Religion
Suggested 20 character title

____ New Course* _____
Course Number and Full Title

____ Course Revision _____
Course Number and Full Title

____ Liberal Studies Approval + _____
for new or existing course Course Number and Full Title

____ Course Deletion _____
Course Number and Full Title

Number and/or Title Change PH329 Philosophy of Religion
Old Number and/or Full Old Title

RS329 Philosophy of Religion
New Number and/or Full New Title

____ Course or Catalog Description Change _____
Course Number and Full Title

____ **PROGRAM:** _____ Major _____ Minor _____ Track

____ New Program* _____
Program Name

____ Program Revision* _____
Program Name

____ Program Deletion* _____
Program Name

____ Title Change _____
Old Program Name

New Program Name

III. Approvals (signatures and date)

Benjamin C. Chan
Department Curriculum Committee

Allred E. Boufford
Department Chair

Doel Mlecko
College Curriculum Committee

Doel Mlecko 2/25/94
College Dean

+ Director of Liberal Studies (where applicable)

*Provost (where applicable)

PART TWO. DESCRIPTION OF CURRICULM CHANGE

1) Catalog Description

PH 329 Philosophy of Religion 3c-01-3sh

This course is a philosophical, critical examination of religion including the nature of religion; religious argumentation; existence and nature of God; meaning and relation of faith and knowledge; theories of origin of religion.

2) Change of Prefix

Old: PH

New: RS

3) The PH & RS Department faculty voted that the prefix change from PH to RS is appropriate since this course has been and will continue to be taught in the RS track of the Department.

Syllabus B Philosophy of Religion C RLST 329 - 001

Dr. James E. Gibson

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Office Hours To Be announced.

The over all goal of this course is to examine critically certain religious ideas and issues. The range of possible topics in the philosophy of religion is nearly infinite. So we will focus on the most basic group of philosophical problems, those dealing with God, Creation, human nature, and death. The fundamental questions in each category include:

1. Does God exist? What sort of Being is God
2. How and why was the universe created? Does creation have a Divine purpose?
3. Do human's have an immortal soul? Are humans basically good, evil, or neither?
4. Can we expect some kind of continued existence after physical death?

Our method will be entirely critical. We will use the tools of logic, both inductive and deductive to evaluate various arguments for and against religious answers to each of these questions.

Requirements and Evaluation

20% Preparation for and active participation in class. You will be asked to review and criticize the readings for the course as part of a group. You will be graded on how thoroughly and accurately you present the readings to the class.

30 % A Group Presentation. You will be assigned to a group and your collective task will be to develop and present the best possible argument for or against a position. You may not necessarily agree with the case you present. Your goal is to offer the most cogent and clear case for that position you can construct.

30% An individual written paper that presents an clear and cogent argument or against one of the readings in the course. This should be primarily a position paper rather than a research paper, and should be no longer than 15 pages. However, it will include a bibliography and citations when appropriate.

20% A final and comprehensive written exam.

Grading Scale.

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

Below 60 = F

Received

AUG 21 2008

Liberal Studies

Texts:

From the bookstore:

Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*

Moody, *Life After Life*

Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

Others:

We will read and review a series of articles and sections from sacred texts. All can be found on the web.

COURSE OUTLINE

Weekly schedule of topics (Subject to change and revision as the semester progresses)

Week One August 28, 2006 Introduction to the course. Critical thinking basics. Faith and Reason

Week Two Sept 11, 2006 Reasoning About Religion. Reason, Science, Logic and Faith -- Introduction to Critical thinking and Logic.

Reading: Bertrand Russell. Why I am not a Christian: On line
<http://users.drew.edu/~jlenz/whynot.html>

Week Three Sept 18 Proofs of God's existence

Readings: -- Blaise Pascal On Pascal's Wager: On line.
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/pascal/pensees.i.html>

Week Four Sept 25 More Proofs of God's existence

Aquinas: Summa Contra Gentiles I, Chap. 13
<http://www2.nd.edu/Departments//Maritain/etext/gc.htm>

Aquinas: from the Summa Theologia, I, 2
<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/100203.htm>

Anselm's argument: On line

<http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/proslogium.html>

Week Five Oct 2 Creation and intelligent Design

There are scads of links on the web relevant to this debate. For initial reading, **Intelligent Design? a special report reprinted from *Natural History* magazine**

<http://www.actionbioscience.org/evolution/nhmag.html>

See also *Evolution vs. Creationism* Homepage

<http://physics.syr.edu/courses/modules/ORIGINS/origins.html>

Week Six Oct 9 Theodicy The book of Job

Week Seven Oct 16 Personal Identity and the Soul -- Perry

Week Eight Oct 30 Personal identity and the Soul (cont')

Week Nine Nov.6 Life after Life. -- Moody

Week Ten Nov.13 Life After Life. (cont')
Week Eleven Nov.20 Arguments from Religious Experience
Week Twelve Nov.27 Freud: The Future of an Illusion
Week Thirteen Dec. 4 James: The Will to Believe. On line
<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~omearawm/ph101/willtobelieve.html>

Week Fourteen Dec.11 Review

Class Policy

1. You are expected to come to EVERY class and participate. Your grade will be based, in part on your participation and the only way you can learn the critical method and understand the reading is to discuss it with others. I will take attendance nearly every class. Late arrivals and early deserters will be counted as absent. A formal attendance policy will be given you the first Hour of class.
2. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. In its broadest sense 'plagiarism' is defined as the theft of an idea, concept or text without proper payment to the author. In practical terms this means that any use in a paper of an idea, concept or text not your own without a footnote or reference recognizing the source is improper. Buying a paper and handing it in as your own, copying a another student's paper, or copying sentences, paragraphs or pages from any publication not your own without footnote or reference are examples of plagiarism. University policy concerning plagiarism will be implemented for all violations.
3. While in the classroom, you are in a professional environment. Private conversations, reading newspapers, headphones, falling asleep and other kinds of non-professional behavior count as disruptions of the class and will lead to dismissal from class and possible failure.
4. In the event that a major disaster prevents you from attending class, you will be responsible for all information conveyed in that class, including announcements of exams and changes in assignments.
5. No make up quizzes will be given
6. No incompletes will be given for the course. All assignments must be handed in on time or they will be counted as failures.
7. Do not schedule doctor's appointments, job interviews, sports practice or other engagements during class-time or examinations. None will count as excused absences.
8. At the beginning of most classes, I will call on a number of students to review the previous lecture, explain central concepts or ideas covered in the reading or lectures, or review the reading assignment. These recitations are one component of the class participation grade.
9. Occasionally, I will also give a spot quiz. This is to check that reading assignments have

been completed and keep you up to date.

10. Both recitations and quizzes will occur at the beginning of the class period and will take not more than ten minutes. Lateness will count as an absence if the quiz or recitation is missed. Please be in class on time.
11. **BE SURE TO BRING THE TEXT WE ARE READING TO CLASS!!**
12. **SAGE ADVICE:** Disasters are going to happen during the next 14 Hours. They are inevitable: sickness, parental demands, court cases, etc. Plan for them. You will have to finish the work for this course regardless of what happens. Be prepared. Do your work ahead of time and allow space for coping with what life brings.
13. The class can only function with near total freedom of expression. As long as you are willing to accept criticism, you can express any idea, no matter how outlandish or absurd others may think it. However, limitations exist. You should not personally insult another member of the class, or make derisive comments about race, gender, or sexual orientation.