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CATALOG YEAR 2013-2014

COLLEGE/SCHOOL/SECTION: College of Arts and Sciences/ Dept. of Humanities

Minor: Add: Delete: Change: Attach new/changed minor. If in current online catalog, provide change and attach text with changes in red.

Approvals:	Signature	Date
Chair Department Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Chair Department	_____	_____
Chair College Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Dean	_____	_____

02/2012

MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

MINOR CURRICULUM – PHILOSOPHY

18 SCH

REQUIRED COURSES:

PHIL [2301](#) Introduction to Logic

PHIL [2306](#) Introduction to Ethics

FOUR COURSES CHOSEN FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

PHIL [3302](#) Philosophy of Law

PHIL [3304](#) Contemporary Moral Issues

PHIL [3306](#) Existentialism

PHIL [3311](#) Great Books of the Western Tradition-Classical Period to Renaissance

PHIL [3312](#) Great Books of the Western Tradition - Renaissance to Present

PHIL [4302](#) Philosophy in Literature

PSCI [3313](#) Classical and Medieval Political Philosophy

PSCI [3314](#) Modern Political Philosophy

PSCI [4321](#) Special Topics in Political Science

Eros and Politics: the Political Nature of Plato's Symposium

GENERAL MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

The new Department is the result of TAMIU's commitment to promoting true interdisciplinary studies - in unison with the University's mission to create students for leadership roles in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society - by facilitating fruitful synergies among the different disciplines that the Department houses: English, History, Spanish, and Philosophy, plus the International Language Institute, which offers courses in ESL and in foreign languages.

GENERAL MISSION OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

In unison with the institutional and Humanities' missions, this minor program is dedicated to the

development of students who are capable of rational argument, open-minded consideration of diverse view points, informed integration of their own and others' cultural and intellectual histories, and ethical yet critically analytical decisions in their personal and professional lives. This era of rapid technological change, information proliferation and global interdependence creates ever-changing cultural, economic and political situations that must be met by the students with the adaptability of a quick mind balanced by the strength of informed conviction produced by the classical tradition of the Humanities and philosophy in particular. To achieve this, the minor in philosophy program is committed to the cooperation of various faculty from diverse traditions and areas of study in order to challenge students by introducing a wide array of perspectives and worldviews.

PROGRAM OUTCOME

Students who receive a minor in philosophy will have an e-portfolio that demonstrates effective written and oral communication of a philosophical nature, thereby demonstrating the ability to think critically about their own ideas and beliefs as well as those of others, to justify their lines of reasoning, and to evaluate the lines of reasoning promoted in various disciplines of study.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

A student that has attained the minor in philosophy must have demonstrated mastery of the following objectives through the various assignments and assessments administered throughout the coursework and contained within the e-portfolio.

1. To demonstrate an awareness of the pivotal works within the history of Western philosophy and an understanding of the distinctions between the various schools of thought.
2. To construct and analyze categorical syllogisms and translate arguments into symbolic logic.
3. To examine philosophical works as expressions of individual and human values within a

historical/social context and to analyze the influence of these theories on art, literature, history, global politics, science, etc.

4. To respond critically to works of philosophers by assessing their logical strengths and weaknesses (determining whether arguments employ logical fallacies; providing explanations for their faults; evaluating the validity, soundness and truth content of statements and arguments; and predicting logical consequences to arise from such lines of reasoning).
5. To articulate verbal /written informed personal reactions to works in philosophy in such a way as to create a personal stance on key philosophical questions and to implement inquiry and a logical reasoning-based argumentation process in order to defend this stance.

JUSTIFICATION

-First, it meets the demands of the students without costing the university in that these courses are already being taught within a four-year cycle by a number of professors in the Philosophy, English, and Political Science departments (Humanities and Social Sciences). That there is a demand can be corroborated by the names and ID numbers of the 20 students who have indicated their desire for the minor in philosophy (two of which we lost to transfer to other universities with philosophy programs- see attached list).

-Second, the minor in philosophy will train the students to meet new AACU standards going into effect in 2014 such as: fulfilling the Critical Thinking component through the use of inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis; meeting the Communication Skills component through the production of effectively written essays, oral presentations, and debates; inculcating Personal Responsibility with such courses Introduction to Ethics (PHIL 2306) and Contemporary Moral Problems (PHIL 3304); and sowing the seeds of Social Responsibility through the exposure to the worldviews from other cultures within the context of survey courses such as the Introduction

to Philosophy (PHIL 1301) and the Great Books series (PHIL 3311 and 3312).

-Third, the minor in philosophy offers a great companion to the majors in English, political science, history, and criminal justice among the TAMIU students who wish to move on to law school. It has been widely recognized that philosophy's mastery of written and oral communication in conjunction with its rigorous emphasis on rational or logical argument prepare undergraduate students for tremendous success in not only the LSAT, but in law school courses as well.

-Fourth, the minor in philosophy successfully unifies many of the other fields of study creating the CORE curriculum at TAMIU in such a way as to enable students to finally be able to make sense of the diverse material from the CORE to such a degree as to help students to create a better defined and well-defended world view while simultaneously exposing the students to new ideas that may better endow them with the flexibility of thought necessary in the fast paced world of global markets and quickly changing technologies.

-Fifth, the minor in philosophy best brings to life the institutional values of Texas A&M International University. The values of Respect (Respect for individuals, their points of view and their diverse backgrounds is created by philosophy's disposition to open-mindedness through the systematic examination of competing worldviews), Integrity (Model ethical standards of personal and professional behavior can best be reached through a rigorous discipline that emphasizes self-examination like a minor in philosophy), Service (Serving the University, regional, national and international communities becomes a reality within a field of study like the minor in philosophy that includes course such as ethics and contemporary moral problems, and focuses on dozens of theories which espouse public action over and above mere scholarship), and Excellence (Striving for the highest quality in all endeavors is best arrived at by a student well versed in the virtue/excellence based code of the Ancient Greeks and the Master morality promoted by Friedrich Nietzsche, as well as many other forms of thinking examined closely

within a minor in philosophy program) are exemplified most vividly by the students produced by a minor in philosophy.

Students Expressing Desire to Receive a Philosophy Minor

Avitia, Efren A000706217

Carmona, Dagoberto A00085301

Casillas, Desiree A00069288

Cavazos, Cynthia A00077884

Garcia, Priscilla A00077838

Gonzalez, Raul A00094452

Hinojosa, Max (Transferred out)

Lascari, Luis A00070914

Lopez, Valerie A00085246

Manzano, Juan A00072687

Martinez, Mario (Transferred out)

Molina, Sandra A00092709

Perez, Joseph A00085062

Ramirez, Gloria A00092905

Ramos, Jonathan A00084042

Reyes, Pablo A00096237

Rios, Miguel A00081012

Rocha, Shaula A00076412

Ruiz, Vicente A00066393

Solis, Cristina A00092783

Villezcás, Olga A00098726