**Potter College of Arts & Letters**

**Western Kentucky University**

**745-2345**

**REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Date: October 27, 2011

The Potter College of Arts & Letters submits the following items for consideration:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Item** | **Description of Item & Contact Information** |
| Action | **Proposal to Create a New Course**  PHIL 427 Philosophy of Law  Contact: Michael Seidler, [michael.seidler@wku.edu](mailto:michael.seidler@wku.edu), 745-5756 |
| Action | **Proposal to Revise a Program**  758 Popular Culture Studies  Contact: Anthony Harkins, [anthony.harkins@wku.edu](mailto:anthony.harkins@wku.edu), 745-3149 |
| Action | **Proposal to Create a New Minor Program**  Minor in News/Editorial Journalism Writing  Contact: Mac McKerral, [mac.mckerral@wku.edu](mailto:mac.mckerral@wku.edu), 745-5882 |

Proposal Date: Sept. 12, 2011

**Potter College of Arts and Letters**

**Department of Philosophy and Religion**

**Proposal to Create a New Course**

**(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Michael J. Seidler, michael.seidler@wku.edu, 745-5756

**1. Identification of proposed course:**

* 1. Course prefix (subject area) and number: Phil 427
  2. Course title: Philosophy of Law
  3. Abbreviated course title: Philosophy of Law
  4. Credit hours and contact hours: 3
  5. Type of course: S
  6. Prerequisites/requisites: one philosophy course, or permission of instructor
  7. Course catalog listing: A study of theories on the nature and origin of law, basic legal concepts (obligation, right, equality, liberty, justice), legal moralism, church and state, civil disobedience, and other topics.

**2. Rationale:**

* 1. Reason for developing the proposed course:   
     o to provide students with an opportunity to explore the philosophical   
      foundations of law as a basic social institution   
     o to diversify course offerings in the Phil major and minor   
     o to build a better foundation for an applied ethics concentration in Phil program  
     o to bring the Phil curriculum into line with comparable programs around  
      the country, particularly WKU’s benchmark schools   
     o to support the new Legal Studies minor with an important elective   
     o to encourage cross-disciplinary enrollments among students from different  
      subject areas (esp. Poli-Sci, History, Criminology, Psychology, etc.)
  2. Projected enrollment in the proposed course: 20 students (every two years)
  3. Relationship of the proposed course to courses now offered by the department: The following courses touch occasionally on issues related to the proposed course: PHIL 202 : *Racial Justice* (racial justice, racism, legal remedies for racial prejudice), PHIL 322: *Biomedical Ethics* (case law addressing biomedical and bioethical issues), PHIL 323: *Social Ethics* (social justice issues), PHIL 324: *War and Peace* (laws justifying and regulating war), PHIL 333: *Marx and Critical Theory* (ideological dimensions of law), PHIL 344: *Early Modern Moral Philosophy* (natural law, law of nations), PHIL 350: *Ethical Theory* (ethical foundations of law). None of them focuses on the nature of law as such, the basis of its obligatoriness, the differences among types of law, and other analytical and foundational issues.
  4. Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other departments: The new Legal Studies Minor contains a broad array of required and elective courses, from many departments, that have a bearing on law and legal ethics. Those that seem to come closest to the proposed course (in terms of an interest in the origin and nature of law, its philosophical justification, and its fundamental relation to moral theory) are PS 326: *Constitutional Law*, PSY 470, *The Psychology of Law*, SOC 432: *Sociology of Criminal Law*, HIST 445/446: *American Legal History*, and PHIL 350: *Ethical Theory*. However, none of these courses deal directly with the fundamental conceptual problems and justificatory issues addressed in standard philosophy of law courses.
  5. Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other institutions:   
     Fourteen of WKU’s nineteen benchmark schools offer a course in the “philosophy of law.” They include the following: [California State University-Chico](http://www.csuchico.edu/), [California State University-Fresno](http://www.csufresno.edu/), [Florida Atlantic University-Boca Raton](http://www.fau.edu/about/campuses/bocacampuses.html), [Eastern Illinois University](http://www.eiu.edu/), [Eastern Michigan University](http://www.emich.edu/), [Indiana State University](http://www-isu.indstate.edu/), [Missouri State University](http://www.missouristate.edu/), [Montclair State University](http://www.montclair.edu/), [Northern Arizona University](http://www.nau.edu/text/), [Oakland University](http://www2.oakland.edu/oakland/ouportal/index.asp?site=1), [Towson University](http://www.towson.edu/), [Western Illinois University](http://www.wiu.edu/), [Wichita State University](http://www.wichita.edu), [Youngstown State University](http://www.ysu.edu). Among other Kentucky institutions, philosophy of law is taught at: the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and Northern Kentucky University.

**3. Discussion of proposed course:**

* 1. Course objectives:   
     o to acquaint students with classical and contemporary legal philosophers  
      and texts   
     o to enable students to detect, employ, and evaluate the basic philosophical   
      assumptions, concepts, and terms encountered in legal opinions and   
      discussions

o to demythologize law by familiarizing students with different accounts of   
 its nature, aims, and origins, and also its responsiveness to social, cultural,   
 political, and ideological factors

* 1. Content outline:

I. Classical Legal Philosophers and Texts (Literature Review)

II. Patterns of Legal Reasoning

III. The Nature of Law

A. Traditional Natural Law (Cicero, Aquinas, Finnis)

B. Modern Natural Law (Grotius, Hobbes, Pufendorf)

C. Legal Positivism (Austin, Hart, Raz)

D. Legal Realism (Holmes)

E. Law as Interpretation (Dworkin)

F. Critical Legal Studies (gender, race, class, postmodernism)

G. International Law

IV. Philosophical Concepts in Law

A. Liberty

B. Equality

C. Justice

D. Rights

E. Responsibility

F. Punishment

V. Law and Other Social Institutions

A. Civil Disobedience

B. Church and State

C. Legal Moralism

D. Toleration

VI. The Image of Law

A. Law in Literature

B. Comparative Law

* 1. Student expectations and requirements: short essays on the main segments of the course, student-led discussions of the assigned readings, student presentations of self-selected topics not already covered in the class, a research paper on a particular thinker or topic (guided by individual students’ interests and other areas of study), class participation
  2. Tentative texts and course materials:

Aileen Kavanagh and John Oberdiek, eds.,*Arguing About Law* (Routledge, 2008) / ISBN: 978-0-415-46242-6

Larry May and [Jeff Brown](http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-302475.html?query=Jeff+Brown), eds., *Philosophy of Law: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009) / ISBN: 978-1-4051-8387-1

Mark C. Murphy, *Philosophy of Law: The Fundamentals* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2006) / ISBN: 978-1-4051-2960-2

**4. Resources:**

* 1. Library resources: See Attachment 1.
  2. Computer resources: Blackboard

**5. Budget implications:**

* 1. Proposed method of staffing: existing faculty members with expertise in   
     moral, political, and social philosophy
  2. Special equipment needed: none
  3. Expendable materials needed: none
  4. Laboratory materials needed: none

**6. Proposed term for implementation:** Spring 2012

**7. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

Phil & RelDepartment/Division: \_\_\_Sept 21, 2011\_\_\_\_

Potter College Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_ Oct. 3, 2011 \_\_\_

Professional Education Council (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

General Education Committee (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

University Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment: Bibliography, Library Resources Form**, **Course Inventory Form**

Proposal Date: 8/15/2011

**Enter College Potter College of Arts and Letters**

**Proposal to Revise A Program**

**(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Anthony Harkins, [anthony.harkins@wku.edu](mailto:anthony.harkins@wku.edu), 5-3149

**1. Identification of program:**

* 1. Current program reference number: 758
  2. Current program title: Popular Culture Studies
  3. Credit hours: 34

**2. Identification of the proposed program changes:**

* Revision of catalog listing to reflect changes in course numbering of certain existing elective courses in the program, the retitling of the Women’s Studies program and the addition of ANTH 342 and FILM 369.

**3. Detailed program description:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Existing Program** | **Proposed Revised Program** |
| Required Courses (19 hours):  1. POP 201 (3 hours) Prerequisite: ENG 100 or permission of instructor  2. Core Courses (12 hours):  Students must take one course from each of the following four categories, each of which represents a shared theoretical approach to the subject.  Category One: HIST 340 or HIST 447  Category Two: FLK 371, 373, 281  Category Three: BCOM 300, JOUR 201,  ENG 366, ENG 465  Category Four: PHIL 207, SOCL 245,  PS 372  3. POP 498 (4 hours):  Prerequisites: POP 201 and Senior status and 21 credit hours in the major prior to or concurrent with taking this course. | No Proposed Changes |
| Elective Courses (15 hours): Students will fulfill the remaining fifteen hours of the major by choosing from the following elective courses: AFAM 190, ANTH 120, 277, 350, 448, ART 312, 313, 334, 390, 405, 445, BCOM 201, 300, 401, ENG 320, 321, 340, 365, 366, 368, 370, 465, 466, FILM 201, FLK 276, 281, 371, 373, 379, 410, 445, 464, 478, FREN 323, 427, 450, GEOG 430, GERM 333, 335, 437, HIST 320, 321, 340, 391, 402, 447, 490, JOUR 201, PHIL 207, POP 399, PS 303, 320, 321, 372, SOCL 245, 324, 345, SPAN 373, 376, 490, THEA 431, ~~WOMN 375~~.  Students can take no more than 6 credit hours in any one discipline unless they are minoring or double majoring in that discipline. Students should consult the appropriate department and course catalog listing for any prerequisites. | Elective Courses (15 hours): Students will fulfill the remaining fifteen hours of the major by choosing from the following elective courses: AFAM 190, ANTH 120, 277, **342**, 350, 448, ART 312, 313, **325**, 334, 390, 405, **408**, **409**, **410**, 445, BCOM 201, 300, 401, ENG 320, 321, 340, 365, 366, 368, 370, 465, 466, FILM 201, **369**, FLK 276, 281, 371, 373, 379, 410, 445, 464, 478, FREN 323, 427, 450, GEOG 430, GERM 333, 335, 437, **GWS 375**, HIST 320, 321, 340, 391, 402, 447, 490, JOUR 201, PHIL 207, POP 399, PS 303, 320, 321, 372, SOCL 245, 324, 345, SPAN 373, 376, 490, THEA 431.  Students can take no more than 6 credit hours in any one discipline unless they are minoring or double majoring in that discipline. Students should consult the appropriate department and course catalog listing for any prerequisites. |

**4. Rationale for the proposed program change:** The program and catalog listing need to be updated to reflect the addition of two new electives (ANTH 342, FILM 369), the renaming of the Women’s Studies program to the Gender and Women’s Studies program (GWS 375 replacing WMNS 375), and changes the Art Department made in course numbering of certain courses that were previously included as electives in the Popular Culture Studies major.

**5. Proposed term for implementation and special provisions (if applicable):** 201230

**6. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

Popular Culture Studies Curr. Comm.: March 16, 2011

PCAL Curriculum Committee October 3, 2011

Professional Education Council (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_\_

General Education Committee (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

University Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal Date: April 25, 2011 -rev.

**Potter College of Arts & Letters**

**School of Journalism & Broadcasting**

**Proposal to Create a New Minor Program**

**(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Mac McKerral, [mac.mckerral@wku.edu](mailto:mac.mckerral@wku.edu), 745-5882

**1. Identification of program:**

* 1. Program title: Minor in News/Editorial Journalism Writing
  2. Required hours in minor programs: 21
  3. Special information: CIP# 09.0401
  4. Catalog description: The minor in news/editorial journalism writing (reference # ---) requires a minimum of 21 hours. Students pursuing the minor can gain valuable knowledge and skills in professional media writing and journalistic storytelling. Required courses include: JOUR 201, 202, 301, 302, and 323. The remaining six hours, chosen in consultation with an assigned faculty advisor, may be selected from the following restricted electives: JOUR 325, 426, 422, 481\*, 495\*. Half of the hours in the minor must be at the 300- or 400-level.

(\*JOUR 481 and 495 require the program coordinator’s permission)

**2. Rationale:**

* 1. Reason for developing the proposed minor program:

Students who add the minor in News/Editorial Journalism Writing will improve upon a valuable range of skills and knowledge. Students will increase their competency in written and oral communication and add specialized professional skills in information gathering, reporting and editing, and press law and ethics.

The News/Editorial faculty has heard increasingly from students that we should offer a minor in News/Editorial Journalism. While this is anecdotal, there is a campus-wide measure to support it. More and more disciplines are using SJ&B News/Editorial classes within their curricula.

For example, entering 2011: the major in Pop Culture uses as a restricted elective JOUR 201 Media and Society; the major in Corporate and Organizational Communication lists JOUR 202 Intro to Media Writing as a restricted elective; and the minor in Legal Studies uses as a restricted elective JOUR 301 Press Law & Ethics.

There is good reason for campus-wide interest in this proposed minor.

• The SJ&B offers a range of classes highly sought in many career fields and with great potential for cross-disciplinary application. These include offerings in news writing and editing, and media law and ethics.

• These course offerings can enhance the interdisciplinary skills of written and oral communication, information gathering and interpersonal communications.

• More educators and private-sector leaders are talking about the value of student exposure to the journalism discipline and journalistic writing.

Two examples:

• From the article “Why Every Student Should Learn the Skills of a Journalist” on the website Mind/Shift, dedicated to exploring the future of education:

“The skills of a journalist mirror those of today’s media consumer which is why news literacy is a critical skill for all students,” said Esther Wojcicki, a teacher at Palo Alto High School. “Like journalists, students today are gathering information; however, unlike journalists, they do not have the skills for analyzing it, or writing about it. They should be taught these skills in school; we need to teach kids how to critically examine their research and make intelligent decisions about it. We need to teach them how to write for the Web so they can feel empowered to participate.”

“Journalism helps students get a rounded education,” said Gilbert Bailon, 2007-08 American Society of Newspaper Editors president. “It teaches literacy, critical thinking, diversity and community connection. It helps youth emerge as tomorrow's leaders and stewards of our precious democracy.”

The WKU News/Editorial unit believes similar outcomes will apply to college students exposed to the journalism discipline. Because of the reduction or elimination of journalism classes and student media in high schools, many students arrive at WKU with little or no exposure to journalism.

• From the Scholastic Journalism Institute website:

“As journalism educators, we have an obligation to advocate for curricula that improves our democracy, our communities, our schools and, most importantly, our students. Journalism students research issues and synthesize positions based on fact; intelligently converse on a spectrum of issues; practice the five freedoms responsibly; and effectively communicate in words and images.”

• From the “Scholastic Journalism Institute White Paper on Threats to Scholastic Journalism Programs”:

“Despite numerous studies that demonstrate the value of journalism in the curriculum, the trend is increasingly for schools to reduce or eliminate journalism and related classes from academic offerings.”

Strong written and verbal communication skills, and exposure to developing communication technology are highly sought after in the marketplace.

• From a PowerPoint delivered by the keynote speaker Debra Humphreys at “Engaging the Spirit” in 2009 about curriculum in the 21st Century:

*High Impact Practices: “Writing Intensive Courses.”*

Humphreys said: “(Writing is) incredibly important. Everyone is worried about these skills. Everyone wants us to do better in that.”

Employers: Top Priorities for Increased Emphasis by Colleges: “Written and oral communication, 73 percent.”

WKU priorities from “Direction of Gen Ed” faculty survey: Ranked No. 1, “Oral and written communication skills” referenced by 98.1 percent of respondents.

* 1. Projected enrollment in the proposed minor program:

Approximately20 to 25 students within a year of the implementation date — based on student inquiries asking if the School offers a minor in journalism. Enrollment is expected to increase within five years to 30 to 35 students. Currently there are 51 students in the broadcasting minor. There are 13 students in the digital advertising minor and 13 students in the mass communication minor. This is a gauge of student interest in media studies that supplement their major.

* 1. Relationship of the proposed minor program to other programs now offered by the department: The minor incorporates core courses and electives from the existing major in News/Editorial. The course of study includes a mix of theoretical and practical skills courses. The minor will complement many major areas of study. The minor will not go into the same depth and level of proficiency as the 42-hour major in News/Editorial. Students pursuing an accredited major within the School of Journalism & Broadcasting may not select the minor in news/editorial unless they have 80 hours outside the School and the field of mass communication/journalism.

The School currently offers minors in digital advertising, broadcasting and mass communication. The minor in news/editorial journalism would provide a concentrated program in journalism writing and editing. The other minors in the School are not focused on journalism. The minor in broadcasting does allow electives in broadcast journalism, but it is not the focus of the minor.

* 1. Relationship of the proposed minor program to other university programs:

The minor is non-duplicative and offers a strong option for other departments, which want their students to graduate with enhanced journalistic writing and media technology skills.

* 1. Similar minor programs offered elsewhere in Kentucky and in other states (including programs at benchmark institutions):

Kentucky institutions:

• Kentucky State University: Minor in Journalism

• Eastern Kentucky University: Minors in Journalism and Visual journalism

• Murray State University: Minor in Journalism & Communications

• Northern Kentucky University: Minor in Journalism

Other minors offered within state institutions are in the areas of broadcasting and telecommunications

WKU Benchmark Institutions

California State University -  Chico – Minor in Journalism

California State University -  Fresno - Minor in Mass Communication and Journalism

Eastern Illinois University – Minor in Journalism

Eastern Michigan University – Minor in Journalism

Montclair State University – Minor in Journalism

Northern Arizona University – Minor in Journalism

Oakland University (Michigan) – Minor in Journalism

Missouri State University – Minor in Journalism

University of Northern Iowa – Minor in Communication/Journalism

Western Illinois University – Minor in Journalism

Wichita State University- Minor in Communication w/ emphasis in Journalism

Youngstown State University – Minor in Journalism

* 1. Relationship of the proposed minor program to the university mission and objectives:

The minor specifically addresses the WKU mission and objectives in the areas of enhanced communications skills; student exposure to interdisciplinary education; and preparing students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizens in a global society. The work of journalists serves as one of the highest forms of civic engagement.

The minor also addresses the WKU QEP standards of: (a) active learning approaches and multidisciplinary coursework, (b) applied scholarship, service learning, leadership and other experiential learning opportunities (journalism field work, work with student media and internships), and (c) increased commitment to promoting internationalism and appreciation for diverse ideas, cultures and peoples, (and placing) students’ learning in a more practical and professionally-oriented context demanded by today’s global marketplace.

**3. Objectives of the proposed minor:** The minor opens the resources of and learning opportunities housed in the SJ&B to students from a variety of disciplines. The minor offers those students an opportunity to enhance career opportunities and learning experiences through utilization of the SJ&B curriculum. Core courses offer students basic preparation, and professional electives allow students to develop strengths in one or more areas.

Learning objectives:

• To enhance the understanding of the role of the media in a democratic society

• To provide a solid base for storytelling and to learn how to report, write and edit copy on deadline for print and Web-based publications.

• To foster an understanding of professional media law and journalistic ethics.

**4. Curriculum:**

**Minor in News/Editorial Journalism Writing 21 hours**

**Required courses (15 hours)**  JOUR 201 Media & Society

JOUR 202 Introduction to Media Writing

JOUR 301 Press Law and Ethics

JOUR 302 Intermediate Reporting

JOUR 323 News Editing

**Restricted electives (select 6 hours):**

JOUR 325 Feature Writing

JOUR 422 Current Issues in Mass Communication

JOUR 426 Advanced Reporting

JOUR 481 Problems in Mass Communication\*

JOUR 495 Collaborative Journalism\*

\* Requires permission of unit coordinator

**5. Budget implications:**

Initially, there would be no budget implications. The courses offered already exist and are being taught on a regular basis. They would require no additional resources or specialized faculty. However, if the minor becomes as popular as anticipated, additional staffing for non-major sections of some courses could be required.

**6. Proposed term for implementation:** Fall 2012

**7. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

SJ&B Curriculum Committee ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_April 28, 2011\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School of Journalism & Broadcasting ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_April 29, 2011\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Potter College Curriculum Committee \_Oct. 3, 2011\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

University Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment: Program Inventory Form**