

## Office of the Registrar

## COURSE INVENTORY FORM

Check One

☐

Create New Course

☒

Temporary Course Offering

1. Has this course previously been offered on a temporary basis? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, indicate the term offered 2. Subject Area PHIL Course Number 427 Course Title (as it should appear on the transcript; maximum of 30 letters & spaces) PHILOSOPHY OF LAW3. Term for Implementation (e.g., Spring 2012=201210, Fall 2012=201230) 2012104. Official Course Title PHILOSOPHY OF LAW5. Offering Unit (See Table of Code Values.) College AR Department PHIL6. Credit Hours Fixed Credit Hours: 3.00 Variable Credit Hours   7. Repeat Limit (See instructions.)  Total Maximum Hours (See instructions.) 8. Grading (Check all that apply.) ☒ Standard Letter Grading ☐ Pass/Fail Only ☐ No Grade  
☐ In Progress – IP (Course is intended to span more than one term.)9. Schedule Type (See Table of Schedule Types.) S ☐ ☐

10. Corequisites (courses required to be taken concurrently with this course)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

11. Equivalent Courses (Include Commonwealth School courses and other equivalent courses.)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

12. Prerequisites (See instructions.)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

OR Other One philosophy course or permission of instructor.13. Course Attribute ☐ Honors Course ☐ Developmental Course14. Course Restrictions ☐ Include/ ☐ Exclude College  College  Major  Major  Classification 

15. Course Description (Indicate exactly as it should appear in the University Catalog. Include pertinent special information, e.g., course fees, pass/fail grading, field trips, transportation requirements, etc.)

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.

16. Approvals:

Department Head

Temporary course:

College Dean

Graduate Dean

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Graduate Council

Date

Date

Date

University Senate

Office of the Registrar Use

CIP

Banner Data

Course Description

Evaluate

**Potter College of Arts and Letters  
Department of Philosophy & Religion  
Proposal to Create a Temporary Course  
(Information Item)**

Contact Person: Michael Seidler, [michael.seidler@wku.edu](mailto:michael.seidler@wku.edu) , 745-5756

**1. Identification of proposed course**

- 1.1 Course prefix (subject area) and number: Phil 427
- 1.2 Course title: Philosophy of Law
- 1.3 Abbreviated course title: Philosophy of Law
- 1.4 Credit hours: 3
- 1.5 Schedule type: S
- 1.6 Prerequisites/corequisites: one philosophy course, or permission of instructor
- 1.7 Course description: 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**

- 2.1 Reason for offering this course on a temporary basis: A new course proposal is in process but may not be fully approved prior to the beginning of registration for the spring.
- 2.2 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other academic units: 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*, and PHIL 350: *Ethical Theory*. None, however, seem to deal directly with the fundamental conceptual problems and justificatory issues addressed in standard philosophy of law courses.

**3. Description of proposed course**

3.1 Course 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

3.2 Tentative text(s)

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

Larry May and 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. Second offering of a temporary course (if applicable)

- 4.1 Reason for offering this course a second time on a temporary basis: N/A
- 4.2 Term course was first offered: N/A
- 4.3 Enrollment in first offering: N/A

5. Term of Implementation: 201210

6. Dates of review/approvals:

Department of Philosophy and Religion

Potter College Curriculum Committee

Potter College Dean

9/7/11  
 [Signature]  
 9/7/11