# Course Change Proposal
## Form A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Group (College): Arts &amp; Letters</th>
<th>Academic Organization (Department): Philosophy</th>
<th>Date: April 9, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Course Proposal:</td>
<td>Department Chair: Thomas Pyne</td>
<td>Submitted by: Thomas Pyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New X Change Deletion</td>
<td>For Catalog Copy: Yes X No</td>
<td>Semester Effective: Fall X Spring , 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does this course fulfill a requirement for single-subject or multiple subject credential students? Yes No X</th>
<th>CCE (Extension): Yes No X</th>
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</table>

This course replaces experimental course Subject Area (prefix) and Catalog Nbr (course number):

If changing an existing course, should new version be considered a repeat of the original version? If so, the same Course ID will be maintained. If not, a new Course ID will be assigned. Note: In PeopleSoft terminology, the Course ID is the unique system identifier, not the Catalog Nbr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change from:</th>
<th>Change to:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Area (prefix) &amp; Catalog Nbr (course no.):</td>
<td>Title:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 189</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
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**JUSTIFICATION:**

PHIL 189 serves several purposes in the philosophy program:

1. the senior essay provides a sample of the graduating student’s best written work;
2. the general knowledge and skills exam provides an assessment of the level of the program’s graduates;
3. critiques of philosophy events will give the department a common demonstration of the students’ ability to grasp, and achieve a reasoned critical perspective on presentations by professional philosophers.

**NEW COURSE DESCRIPTION:** (Not to exceed 80 words, and language should conform to catalog copy. See [http://www.csus.edu/umanual/acad.htm](http://www.csus.edu/umanual/acad.htm) - Guidelines for Catalog Course Description)

A required capstone experience in the philosophy major. The course involves: completion of a senior essay under direction of a faculty member; preparation for knowledge and skills examination; submission of written critiques for three public events in philosophy; completion of departmental assessment questionnaire.

**Note:**

- **Prerequisite:** 12 upper-division units in Philosophy.
  - **Enforced at Registration:** Yes X No
- **Corequisite:**
  - **Enforced at Registration:** Yes No
- **Graded:** Letter X Credit/No Credit
- **Instructor Approval Required:** Yes No
- **Course Classification (e.g., lecture, lab, seminar, discussion):**
  - **Seminar**
- **Title for CMS (not more than 30 characters):**
  - Senior Seminar
- **Cross Listed:** Yes X No
  - If yes, do they meet together and fulfill the same requirement, and what is the other course.
- **How Many Times Can This Course be Taken for Credit?** __
- **Can the course be taken for Credit more than once during the same term?** Yes No
FOR NEW COURSE PROPOSALS OR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES ONLY:

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes:** Describe outcomes using the following format: "Students will be able to: 1), 2), etc." See the example at http://www.csus.edu/acaf/example.htm

Students will be able to:
1. complete a substantial philosophical essay according to the Department’s "Guidelines for Writing Philosophy Papers," which can be found at: http://www.csus.edu/phil/WritingGuidelines&GradingStandardsforPapers.htm
2. achieve an acceptable score on a general knowledge and skills exam in philosophy
3. produce three 3-page critiques of public philosophy events that demonstrate a grasp of the issues treated, as well as a reasoned critical perspective.

**Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities [Note: it is understood that these are updated and modified as needed by the instructor(s).] This attachment should be forwarded only to your Dean's office, not Academic Affairs.**

**Assessment Strategies:** A description of the assessment strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers) which will be used by the instructor to determine the extent to which students have achieved the learning outcomes noted above:

**Essays, general exam, critiques.**

For whom is this course being developed?
Majors in the Dept: X_ Majors in other Depts ___ Minors in the Dept ____ General Education ___ Other ___

Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate)? Yes X No ___

If yes, identify program(s):
General Major, Concentration in Ethics, Politics, and Law, Concentration in Logic and Philosophy of Science

Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer facilities, faculty, etc.)? Yes ___ No X ___

If yes, attach a description of resources needed and verify that resources are available.

Indicate which department or programs will be affected by the proposed course (if any). None

The Department Chair's signature below indicates that affected programs have been sent a copy of this proposal form.

**Approvals:** If proposed change, new course or deletion is approved, sign and date below. If not approved, forward without signing to the next reviewing authority, and attach an explanatory memorandum to the original copy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signatures:</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department Chair:</td>
<td>4/9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Dean or Associate Dean:</td>
<td>4/22/00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPSP (for school personnel courses ONLY)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution: Academic Affairs (original), Department Chair and College Dean. Dean's office to send original after approval to Academic Affairs, at mail zip 6016. An electronic copy must also be sent.

9/10/2008
College of Arts and Letters Curriculum Committee
CHECK-OFF LIST FOR COURSE APPROVAL

Name of Department: Philosophy  Effective Date: Fall 2010
Proposed Course Number: 189  Course Name: Senior Seminar
Contact Person: Thomas Pyne  Instructor: Open
Projected Enrollment: 25  Units of Credit: 1
Has the course been offered before? No  If yes, under what number?
Suggested Course Classification: Seminar
Unit distribution: lecture _X_ lab ___ activity _X_ ___

List the prerequisite(s) for the proposed course. 12 upper division units in philosophy

For which students or programs is the course designated?
_X_ Majors in the department
___ Minors in the department
___ Majors of other departments (e.g., An A&L course designed for Business Administration majors)
___ General service
___ Other (specify) ________________________________

If approved by the A & L Curriculum Committee, will this course be submitted for consideration in the General Education Program?  Yes ___ No _X_

Method of Presentation:
____ Lecture    ___ Lecture/Activity  ___ Lecture/Discussion    ___ Lecture/Laboratory
____ Activity    ___ Laboratory  _X_ Seminar    ___ Films and/or other visuals
___ Performance    ___ Other (specify) ________________________________

If different amounts of credit will be available for the proposed course, indicate differences in course requirements for earning the units.

If the course can be taken more than one time for credit, what is the justification for the repetition? How will the two (or more) experiences differ?

What courses currently offered in Arts and Letters or other colleges/departments most closely resemble the proposed course? No analogue to this course.

Can the course be implemented within the existing departmental allocation? Yes

If this is a new course, how will it be integrated into your present allocation:
The senior paper has been required by our assessment procedures for some time, so in effect we’re already doing a lot of this. The seminar provides a much-needed structure for that and other elements of our assessment plan.

**List the objectives/goals/expected learning outcomes.**

Students will be able to:

1. complete a substantial philosophical essay according to the Department’s “Guidelines for Writing Philosophy Papers,” which can be found at: [http://www.csus.edu/phil/WritingGuidelines&GradingStandardsforPapers.htm](http://www.csus.edu/phil/WritingGuidelines&GradingStandardsforPapers.htm)
2. achieve an acceptable score on a general knowledge and skills exam in philosophy;
3. produce three 3-page critiques of public philosophy events that demonstrate a grasp of the issues treated, as well as a reasoned critical perspective.

**What student assessment tools will be used?** *(e.g., exams, papers, portfolios.)*

a. essay
b. exam
c. critiques

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**In addition to filling out the Check-Off List form, please submit a course syllabus containing the following information:**

I. **Course Content and Objectives**
   (Brief discursive overview of major topics and goals)

II. **Required Texts**
   *(e.g., textbooks, class handouts, journals, newspapers, web pages, videos, etc.)*

III. **Course Format**
   *(e.g., lecture, lecture-discussion, seminar, composition, activities, studio, etc.)*

IV. **Course Requirements**
   A. Class Participation
   B. Examinations
   C. Research Paper or Term Project or Short Papers, etc.
   D. Attendance
   E. Other Policies

V. **Student Evaluation:** How are the requirements in IV weighted in determining the course grade?
   *(e.g., attendance 10%, midterm 23%, etc.)*

VI. **Semester Outline**
   *(Course topics ordered weekly)*
Syllabus: Philosophy 189
Senior Seminar

Catalogue Description

Students complete senior essay under direction of a faculty member, take philosophy general knowledge and skills exit exam, attend and submit a written critique of a minimum of 3 philosophy colloquia, and complete a departmental assessment questionnaire. (1 unit)

Learning Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide graduating seniors with a culminating experience that will also facilitate the Department’s ongoing effort to assess and improve its program.

1. The senior essay provides an example of the graduating student’s best written work.
2. The general knowledge and skills exit exam provides an indication of the level of knowledge and sophistication the graduating student has achieved.
3. The philosophy colloquia assignments provide an indication of the graduating student’s ability to grasp and achieve a reasoned critical perspective on presentations made by professional philosophers.
4. The departmental assessment questionnaire provides an opportunity for graduating students to provide direct feedback on the quality of instruction and advisement they have received and the way in which they believe the Department could be improved.

Course Requirements

Attendance

This course will meet three times: the first day of class, midsemester, and either the last day of class or during the final exam period. Attendance is absolutely required at all three meeting times.
Course Requirements (continued)

Assignments

Your grade in this course will be based on your performance on your senior essay, a general knowledge/skills exit exam, 3 colloquium critiques, and the assessment questionnaire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior essay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40 pts.</td>
<td>40 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General knowledge/skills test</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30 pts.</td>
<td>30 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colloquium critiques</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
<td>30 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment questionnaire</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
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</table>

All assignments will be evaluated by the presentation standards appropriate to an upper-division seminar. Although the assessment questionnaire is anonymous and ungraded, students who fail to complete it will not pass the course.

Your final grade is based on 100 pts. In calculating your final grade fractional point totals are rounded up to the nearest whole point. Grades are assigned on a standard scale with minuses (-) added to scores below 100 ending in 0 and 1 and plusses (+) added to scores ending in 8 or 9.

Submission Requirements

1. The senior essay should be approximately 10-15 double-spaced pages. At the midterm progress meeting, each student will briefly summarize the aim of their essays and submit a signed agreement with the supervising faculty member.
2. The colloquium critiques will be no more than 3 double-spaced pages, and they will be submitted electronically. For each submission students will receive either the full 10 points or 0 points for substandard submissions. These critiques are due within one week after the colloquium. No late submissions will be accepted.
3. The general skills/knowledge test will be taken in class.
4. The assessment questionnaire will be taken in class. As indicated above, the questionnaire is anonymous, but completing it is a requirement of passing the course.

**Course Materials**

There are no specific required course materials. Students will be provided a study guide for the general knowledge/skills test. Students will be responsible for acquiring whatever materials they require to complete the senior essay.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction to course.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Midterm progress evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Submit senior essay, take general skills/knowledge test, complete exit questionnaire during scheduled final exam period.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will be advised of the colloquium schedule.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic honesty as adumbrated in the academic honesty policy statement (link below) will be dealt with by immediate failure in the course and referral to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm

**Students with Special Needs**

Students who have special learning or testing needs must notify the instructor with the appropriate documentation by the end of the second week of the semester.