Course Name:Philosophy of Mind   
Course Prefix: PHIL  
Course Number: 4530  
             Submitted by (Name & E-Mail):  Richard Greene, rgreene@weber.edu

Current Date:  1/6/2014  
College: Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Department:   Political Sciences & Philosophy                                
From Term: Fall  2014

Substantive

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| new | Current Course Subject N/A Current Course Number |

**New/Revised Course Information:**

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| --- | --- |
| Subject:  PHIL  Course Number: 4530 | Check all that apply:  *This is for courses already approved for gen ed.     Use a*[*different form*](http://documents.weber.edu/catalog/forms.htm)*for proposing a new gen ed designation.* DV  CA  HU  LS  PS  SS  EN  AI  QL  TA  TB  TC  TD  TE |

Course Title: Philosophy of Mind

Abbreviated Course Title:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Course Type: | LEC |

Credit Hours:  3  **or** if variable hours:    to

Contact Hours: Lecture 3  Lab    Other

Repeat Information:  Limit 0   Max Hrs 0

Grading Mode:  standard

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| --- | --- |
| This course is/will be: | a required course in a major program a required course in a minor program a required course in a 1- or 2- year program elective |

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

Course description (exactly as it will appear in the catalog, including prerequisites):

PHIL 4530 - Philosophy of Mind (3)  
A study of enduring topics in the philosophy of mind, such as the nature of mind; the mind-body problem; consciousness; the individuation of mental content; artificial intelligence. Historical and contemporary philosophers are discussed.

**Justification**for the new course or for changes to an existing course. (Note: Justification should emphasize academic rationale for the change or new course. This is particularly important for courses requesting upper-division status.)

Philosophy of mind is one of the central areas in contemporary philosophy. In terms of quantity of research currently being done by professionals in the field, number of faculty who specialize in it, student interest, and its canonical role, philosophy of mind is on a par with metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language, and ethical theory (which are all courses that we currently offer). It also has broad interdisciplinary appeal (interfacing with psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and computer science to name a few). It is a field that is currently very dynamic.  
  
To this point we've not had the faculty resources to offer philosophy of mind while meeting our other upper division obligations. Our recent addition of a third philosopher now positions us to regularly teach philosophy of mind without reducing the offerings of our other upper division courses.  
  
Being able to offer philosophy of mind will benefit those of our students hoping to do graduate work in philosophy, as it (1) makes our students more well-rounded in terms of breadth as they leave our program, and (2) provides a foundation for those students wishing to do graduate work specifically in the philosophy of mind.

**INFORMATION PAGE**for substantive proposals only

1. Did this course receive unanimous approval within the Department?

true

If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?

Yes.

2. If this is a new course proposal, could you achieve the desired results by revising an existing course within your department or by requiring an existing course in another department?

No. This course is not taught in any other departments. None of our other courses focus specifically on the philosophy of mind.

3. How will the proposed course differ from similar offerings by other departments? Comment on any subject overlap between this course and topics generally taught by other departments, even if no similar courses are currently offered by the other departments. Explain any effects that this proposal will have on program requirements or enrollments in other department. Please forward letters (email communication is sufficient) from all departments that you have identified above stating their support or opposition to the proposed course.

There are no similar offerings by other departments. There is some topical overlap with material covered in Psych courses. Some of the theories we discuss have historical connections to movements in psychology (e.g., behaviorism) or attempt to cash out mental phenomena in neuropsychological terms (e.g., reductive materialism and eliminative materialism). However, the approaches we will take to these views is decidedly more philosophical and less scientific than the approach taken by the Psychology department.

4. Is this course required for certification/accreditation of a program?

no

If so, a statement to that effect should appear in the justification and supporting documents should accompany this form.

5. **For course proposals**, e-mail a syllabus to [Faculty Senate](mailto:kbrown4@weber.edu) which should be sufficiently detailed that the committees can determine that the course is at the appropriate level and matches the description.**There should be an indication of the amount and type of outside activity required in the course (projects, research papers, homework, etc.)**.