

Glassboro State College Senate Curriculum Committee

# Approval Form

Proposal Title: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Minor in Philosophy

Sponsor(s) Howard R. Cell Dept.: Philosophy/Religion Ext. 6043

**Check one:**  Course  Specialization  Concentration  Minor  Achievement Certificate  
 Certification Program  Major Program  Minor Change (please name deletion or credit/title/catalog change)

Undergraduate  Graduate 24 Credit Hours

<p><b>Step 1 (Department)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <u>18 February 1988</u> Date</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p><u>Howard R. Cell</u> Dept. CC Chairperson</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed <u>18 February 1988</u> Date</p> <p><u>Howard R. Cell</u> Dept. Chairperson</p>	<p><b>Step 2 (Receipt)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCC# <u>87-55 49</u></p> <p>Proposal Received <u>3/22/88</u> Date</p> <p><u>Bronie A. Polig</u> SCC Chairperson</p>	<p><b>Step 3 (School CC)</b></p> <p>Reviewed <u>3/8/88</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p>Comments: We are aware that this proposal is opposed by current policy and call this to the attention of the Dean and the Senate Committee. This Committee nevertheless supports the proposal.</p> <p><u>Albert G. Shiner</u> School Cur. Comm. Chairperson</p>
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**Step 4 (Academic Dean)**

Recommend  
 Not Recommend  
 Conditionally Recommend (see comments)

Reviewed 3/16/88  
Date

Comments: I recommend that the Senate consider the Philosophy minor as an exceptional case in regard to the policy on minors.

W. Dean Row  
Signature, Dean of School

**Step 5 (SCC)**

Open Hearing 5/6/88  Approved by Senate Curriculum Committee 4/6/89  
Date Date

Returned to sponsor(s) for the following reasons:

CR 8 113

**Step 6 (Senate)**

Presented to Senate 4/7/89  Approved  Not Approved  
Date

Notification to Vice-President for Academic Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signature, SCC Chairperson

**Step 6 (Senate)**

Received 4/21/89  
Date

Approved  YES  No

If no, reasons are as follows:

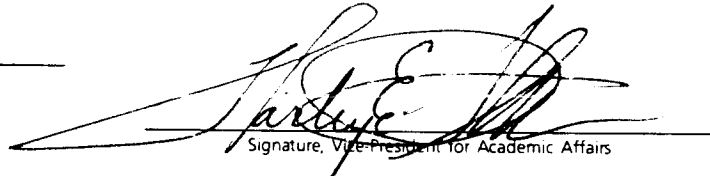
Student credit hours NA

Faculty load hours NA

Equalized credit hours NA

} MINOR PROPOSAL

Official copy and approval sheet filed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
Signature, Vice-President for Academic Affairs

**Registrar**

Approved course description received \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Hegis Taxonomy and Course Number assigned \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Registrar Date

**Notification forwarded:**

- Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson
- Department Chairperson(s)
- Academic Dean(s)
- Registrar
- Sponsor(s)

## PROPOSAL FOR MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

I. A. PROGRAM TITLE: Minor in Philosophy

B. Sponsors:

Howard R. Cell, Chair, Department of Philosophy/Religion  
Department of Philosophy/Religion.

C. Scope/Size of Program: 24 Credit Hours.

D. Relationship to Curriculum:

Implementation of the proposed Minor in Philosophy would enable students to take a sequence of courses intended to complement their major programs. It would likewise enable the Philosophy/Religion Department to increase its service to students and to other departments beyond its present offerings in General Education.

E. Prerequisites/Eligibility:

The Minor in Philosophy will be open to all students, including transfers. As indicated in Section III of this proposal, the Philosophy Minor will include both required and elective courses, but only one of the former involves prerequisites.

F. Suggested Time of Implementation: Fall 1989.

G. Resource Requirements:

The present library holdings are generally adequate, but the Philosophy/Religion Department has begun, and will continue, to order books and a few periodicals that would strengthen the library's collection -- especially in those areas where we plan to develop new courses. No additional classroom space or equipment will be required in order to implement the Philosophy Minor.

Due to recent retirements, the Philosophy/Religion Department is temporarily below its full complement of 7 full-time staff members. We are currently engaged in hiring a replacement for one line, and hope to replace the other before the Philosophy Minor is implemented in the Fall of 1989.

## II. NARRATIVE STATEMENT: MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

The most recent draft of the college's Mission Statement (12/2/87) advocates 'blending liberal education with career preparation,' which is precisely the objective of the proposed Minor in Philosophy. For, this minor program would enable students to take a sequence of courses in philosophy intended to complement and enhance their major programs. Three of the required courses (Introduction to Philosophy, Logic of Everyday Reasoning, and Survey of Western Philosophy) will develop student understanding/application of methods of philosophical inquiry and critical thinking, as well as an appreciation of the history of philosophy. Students will then be required to select, from a bank of three different courses (Business Ethics, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy and Society), that one which is most pertinent for their respective majors: for instance, a chemistry major would take the Philosophy of Science, while an accounting major would take Business Ethics. The fifth required course, Selected Topics in Philosophy, will involve both a synthesis of previous course work in philosophy (elective and required) and an opportunity for each student to link that course work more directly with her/his major program by means of a well-designed project. In short, the Minor in Philosophy would give substance to the college's desire 'to blend liberal education with career preparation;' it would enable the Philosophy/Religion Department to increase its service to students at this college by strengthening and broadening their preparation for a career and for a productive, purposeful life.

Since only one new course (Philosophy of Science) will be needed to implement the Philosophy Minor and since the department is currently engaged in recruiting a new staff person competent to teach that course, we expect to have the minor 'in place' by the Fall of 1989. No additional space, equipment or non-salary budget would be required in order to implement the Philosophy Minor.

## III. RATIONALE:

As indicated in the preceding narrative statement, the proposed Minor in Philosophy constitutes a direct, positive and timely response to the goals of the college which have been articulated in its most recent Mission Statement. But the Philosophy Minor would also create the opportunity for the Philosophy/Religion Department to serve the college constituency more fully: in addition to its present role in providing an array of General Education electives, the department's Philosophy Minor would directly complement many of the established major programs at this college. Insofar,

this minor would establish a new and valuable direction or purpose for our department and a new and valuable academic opportunity for students.

#### IV. ESSENCE OF THE PROPOSED MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY.

##### A. Major Goal:

To enable students to take a sequence of courses in philosophy which would complement and enhance their major programs.

##### B. Specific Objectives:

1. To develop students' understanding of the methods of philosophical inquiry;
2. To improve students' skill in applying these methods and in critical thinking;
3. To develop students' knowledge and appreciation of the history of philosophy (thereby enhancing their cultural literacy);
4. To link students' study of philosophy with their major programs, through a pertinent required course and a major project in the concluding course of the Philosophy Minor;
5. Throughout, to improve students' skill in critical thinking, active reading and written and spoken communication -- as essential for any career and for a productive adult life.

##### C. Structure of the Minor in Philosophy (All philosophy courses are 3 s.h.)

###### 1. Five Required Courses:

- a. Introduction to Philosophy -- A basic course in methods of philosophical inquiry applied to selected philosophical issues.
- b. Logic of Everyday Reasoning -- A course in informal logic intended to improve the student's reasoning through a thorough exposure to common logical fallacies as these appear in ordinary language and through a study of rational procedures for problem-solving.

- c. Survey of Western Philosophy -- A course which acquaints the student with major figures and themes in the history of Western philosophy.
  - d. A course with particular relevance to the student's declared major.
    - 1) Philosophy and Society -- A course which applies classical and contemporary literature in social and political philosophy to the examination of selected current problems in American society. (For students majoring in the other humanities disciplines, Political Science, Communications, Sociology and for students with majors in the School of the Fine Arts or the School of Professional Studies.)
    - 2) Philosophy of Science -- A course which introduces students to the philosophical foundations of, and issues in, modern science. (For students majoring in one of the sciences, in Mathematics or in Computer Science.)
    - 3) Business Ethics -- A course which emphasizes issues of human values in management and the application of moral norms to various business practices. (For students with majors in the School of Business Administration.)
  - e. Selected Topics in Philosophy -- A course designed to enable students both to reinforce and synthesize what they have learned in their previous philosophy courses and to reinforce the connections between those courses and their majors by means of an appropriate project. (Note: This course will be restricted to students who have completed at least six of the courses in philosophy required for the Philosophy Minor.)
2. Three Elective Courses: Students who have taken one major-linked course (cf. 1.d. above) may choose to take either (or both) of the other such courses; or they may select courses from the following list of departmental offerings.

Introduction to Symbolic Logic  
Symbolic Logic  
Introduction to Ethics  
Aesthetics  
Existentialism  
American Philosophy

Oriental Thought  
Philosophy and Gender  
Applied Ethics  
Philosophy of Religion.

(Note: Students will be encouraged, though not required, to select courses -- in addition to the one specifically identified as major-linked -- which are likewise of particular relevance to their majors. For instance, a student whose major is in the School of Fine Arts would be urged to take Aesthetics; and a student whose major is in the School of Business Administration would be advised to take Philosophy and Society.)

D. Administration of the Minor in Philosophy:

This program is being sponsored by the Philosophy/Religion Department which will assume responsibility for its administration. Since the purpose of the Philosophy Minor is to enable students to complement and strengthen their academic majors, the process of administering this program will require establishing and maintaining a closer working relationship with those departments which have students enrolled in one minor. To that end, but also to oversee the advising of students, scheduling of required and elective courses, and so on, the Philosophy/Religion Department will select one of its members to serve as coordinator of its minor and as liaison with other departments.

V. RESULTS OF CONSULTATION:

The following individuals have been contacted regarding the proposed Minor in Philosophy. Their responses are attached.

- A. Lee Dinsmore, Chair: Department of Physical Sciences
- B. Francis Masat, Chair: Dept. of Math. & Computer Sciences
- C. Richard Johnson, Chair: Department of Political Science
- D. Linda Ross, Chair: Management Department.



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

Philosophy and Religion Department

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1766

(609) 863-6049

1 September 1988

Brenda Bolay, Chair  
Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee  
Faculty Senate Office  
Savitz Library

SEP 7 1988  
FACULTY SENATE

Dear Brenda,

Richard Meagher has brought to my attention a curious situation: that there already exists a course which, with minor adjustments, would serve very nicely as the Philosophy of Science course we need in order to proceed with the Philosophy Minor; and, that this course has 'belonged' to the Philosophy/Religion Department since the early 1970s. The course in question, Influence of Scientific Thought on the Development of Man, was assigned the hegis number 1509.307 in the 1972-74 GSC Undergraduate Catalog and remains officially 'on the books' -- as evidenced by p. 100 of Report D3002 (Scheduled Section Tally) issued on 11 July 1988 for the Fall 1988 semester.

In order to avoid course duplication, but also to simplify the process of implementing the Philosophy Minor, I have indicated on the attached Approval Form and explanatory sheet the minor changes which are required. I assume that approval of these changes will in effect constitute unconditional approval of the Philosophy Minor.

Sincerely,

Howard R. Cell, Chair

HRC/jmm



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

Mathematics and Computer Science Department

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1767 (609) 863-6044

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 19, 1988  
TO: Howard Cell, Philosophy & Religion  
FROM: Fran Masat *FM*

Having read your proposal for a Philosophy minor, you have my support.

The minor is an important one, and the Departments's majors should profit from it.



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

Political Science Department

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1764  
(609) 863-6271/6148

February 25, 1988

Howard R. Cell, Chair  
Philosophy/Religion Dept.  
Laurel III  
Campus

Dear Howard:

I was pleased to learn that you have decided to revise the Philosophy Minor. The new configuration should be both appealing and useful to our majors, particularly those with subdisciplinary interests in political philosophy. Indeed, many of our majors already take the Intro. to Philosophy, and all of them take Logic of Everyday Reasoning.

Among your electives, the Philosophy and Society course is a worthy complement to our Survey of Western Political Theory; and the courses in ethics and American philosophy are important supplements to the political scientist's background.

Let me wish you well with this endeavor. Be assured that you have my complete support.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson, Ph.D., Chair  
Political Science Department

RJJ:rw



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

School of Business Administration  
Management Department

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1748  
(609) 863-6026

DATE: February 17, 1988  
TO: Howard Cell  
FROM: diane hamilton *dh*  
RE: proposal for a minor in philosophy

I read your proposal for a minor in philosophy and agree that it looks very interesting. As you point out, many of our students already take Business Ethics (we strongly encourage it) and I note that many of our students also take Logic of Everyday Reasoning.

I can see no reason why anyone in the School of Business would object to such a proposal. They may only question the need, or "desire", for such a program. I note that the total number of credits required is 24 credit hours. For your information, our students only have 15 free elective hours in the program. We do, however, allow students to take Business Ethics as either a business elective or a free elective. (An attempt to encourage enrollment.) My comment would be that perhaps a "concentration" would sell better than a minor. Almost no business students elect to take a minor, whereas certain concentrations have proved to be desirable, due to the lower total credit requirement.



**State of New Jersey**  
**GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE**  
**GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY 08028**

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

April 8, 1988

Dr. Howard Cell  
Department of Philosophy  
and Religion

Dear Howard,

As we grow older we're supposed to grow wiser. My growth, however, is primarily in the realization that my education is lacking and that my undergraduate years were not nearly as productive or as interesting as they might have been.

This confession is prompted by reading your proposal for a minor in Philosophy. It indeed looks to be very productive and interesting and I will urge our majors to enroll in it. I look forward to reading the course description for Philosophy of Science and would love to sit in on the course when its offered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee".

Lee A. Dinsmore

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