

*6/23*

TITLE Topics in the History of Philosophy

Sponsor(s) David Clowney e-mail: clowney@rowan.edu  
Ellen Miller e-mail: millere@rowan.edu  
Matthew Lund e-mail: lund@rowan.edu

DEPARTMENT Philosophy & Religion  
College C.L.A.S.

If LAS -check:  History/Humanities  Social/Behavioral Sciences

Math/Science

UNDERGRADUATE  GRADUATE

New non gen-ed  Major

Short-Term non gen-ed

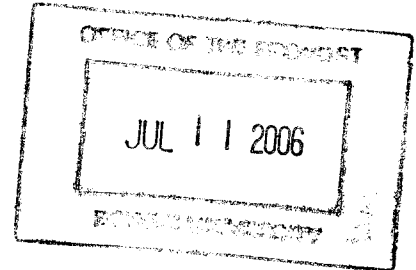
Minor curricular changes (fewer than three) to:

Existing non gen-ed course

Non gen-ed degree requirements

Major

Minor, specialization, concentration, track, certificate program



**Signatures Required: representing approval before submission to Office of the Senate**

Department Chair: David Clowney Date: 2/14/06  
Department CURRICULUM Chair: David Clowney Date: 2/14/06  
Academic DEAN: Greg... Date: 2-14-06

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: Open Hearing Date: 2/19/06  
Approved: 4/23/06  
Not Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: College Curriculum Chair [Signature]

Signature: SENATE CURRICULUM CHAIR [Signature]  
Date: 5/9/06

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: Executive Vice President/Provost: [Signature]  
Date: 6/21/06  
Approved:   
Not Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Approval of this course is independent of approval of major

Signature: REGISTRAR [Signature]  
Date: 6/28/06  
Course Description Received & Approved  
Hegis Taxonomy & Course # PHIL 09.372

Notification Forward:  
 SCC CHAIR  Academic Dean  
 IR  Department Chair  
 CAP  VP/Student Affairs  
 Registrar  Other-

ROWAN UNIVERSITY  
Glassboro, New Jersey

Department of Philosophy and Religion

**Topics in the History of Philosophy – PHIL09.372**

- I. Details
- a. Course Title: Topics in the History of Philosophy
  - b. Sponsors:  
David Clowney, Ellen Miller, Matthew Lund, Philosophy and Religion  
Department
  - c. Credit Hours: 3
  - d. Course Level: Junior (300 level)
  - e. Prerequisites: At least one class in philosophy.
  - f. Implementation:
    - 1. Time of implementation: Fall Semester 2007
    - 2. Scale of implementation: One section every semester, depending on demand.
- II. Curricular Effect
- a. Offerings:  
This course will represent an extension of the curriculum and will not be replacing any other courses.
  - b. Adequacy:
    - 1. Staffing: No additional staff or resources will be required for implementation of this course. All three full-time faculty members on the philosophy side of the department are qualified to teach this course.
    - 2. Space needs: One classroom with seating for thirty students will be needed for one semester every two years.
  - c. Library facilities and holdings, and other relevant resources: The library's collection, including many titles ordered by the Philosophy and Religion Department over the past ten years, and supplemented by future additions, will continue to be adequate for this undergraduate course.
  - d. Short-term Evaluations: N/A

### III. Rationale

Philosophy is a subject that cannot be adequately understood without significant acquaintance with its history. Historical philosophical positions remain relevant to contemporary debates. Furthermore, many current lines of philosophical thought are best comprehended through analysis of the historical developments leading up to them.

The Philosophy and Religion Department already offers a number of courses that deal quite broadly with issues from the history of philosophy. Such courses are generally either survey courses or topical courses. Survey courses range over such large expanses of time that particular historical ideas and settings can only receive minimal treatment; topical courses only deal in a piece-wise manner with history, selecting out only those issues that relate narrowly to the topic under consideration.

Topics in the History of Philosophy will offer the student an opportunity to engage in historical study of important philosophical thinkers and periods of thought. Through the reading of classic philosophical works, coupled with secondary and historical sources, this course will provide the student with an understanding of philosophy in all its historical richness. In addition, students will acquire historical research skills.

The primary rationale for this course is to offer students in the philosophy specialization of our Major in Philosophy and Religion an opportunity for sustained historical study in philosophy. However, the course will also be valuable for non-majors as well. This course will cover a variety of topics, thinkers, and historical periods, and will often be of interest to students in the humanities and the sciences.

### IV. Essence of the Course

#### a. Objectives:

- Students will acquire familiarity with significant figures and periods in the history of philosophy.
- Students will learn to interpret and interact with classical philosophical texts and arguments from the past.
- Students will be able to develop their own philosophical views through study of problems in the history of philosophy.
- Students will enhance their skills of analysis necessary to understand, critique, and construct philosophical arguments.

- Students will become acquainted with methods of historical interpretation and research within philosophy.

b. Course Content: The course will typically involve the following elements:

- The study of selected historical philosophical texts and relevant secondary and historical works. We plan to implement a two year rotation, during which the ancient and medieval, modern, and contemporary periods will be covered. In keeping with our multicultural emphasis, some topics courses will deal with non-western philosophers.
- Lectures will provide historical context for specific philosophical issues and figures.
- Students will have opportunity to engage in philosophy through writing papers, participating in class discussions, and developing their own arguments and philosophical positions.
- Students will learn how to examine philosophical problems historically and gain an appreciation for the relevance of past thinking on contemporary issues.

c. Evaluation of students and grading procedure:

Student performance will be assessed in various ways: written examinations, papers, homework assignments, oral reports, class participation, individual or group projects, and possibly other devices as well. The particular mix of such devices for evaluating student performance will be at the discretion of the instructors.

d. Course Evaluation:

This course will be reevaluated by the Philosophy and Religion department at least every other year (beginning with the first year of its implementation). The review will take into account student evaluations of the course, reactions to the course from various departments, and the views of the instructors responsible for teaching the course. The purpose of this review will be to ensure that the Topics in the History of Philosophy course continues to meet the objectives of the Philosophy and Religion Major and of the general education, the goals of the university as well as the objectives stipulated for the course itself.

V. Results of Consultations  
See major proposal.

**Catalog Description**

PHIL09.372.....3 s.h.

**Topics in the History of Philosophy**

*(Prerequisites: PHIL09.XXX – any course in philosophy)*

This course examines the thought of important figures and periods within the history of philosophy. Through reading and discussion of selected philosophical classics and secondary literature, students develop their own views while gaining a detailed acquaintance with issues in the history of philosophy.

This form **MUST BE COMPLETED FOR NEW COURSE or PROGRAM PROPOSALS, and EXTENSIVE CHANGES TO A COURSE or PROGRAM.**

The purpose of this form is to provide a channel of communication between the Campbell Librarians and faculty when submitting new course or program proposals, or making extensive changes to existing courses or programs. The information will be used to assess the resources available in the library, and to identify resources the library should acquire to support the new courses/programs, or extensive changes to same. The information will also provide the rationale for institutional support for library acquisitions. This form should be completed in a coordinated effort between the course sponsor(s) and the academic department liaison librarian.

**Note:** Sponsor(s) complete parts A & B  
If assistance is required to complete, please notify the librarian liaison.  
Forward this form to the librarian who will complete parts C, D & E

**When form is completed, attach to the original curriculum proposal before submitting to the Senate office.**

A. College: Liberal Arts & Sciences

Department: Philosophy and Religion

Sponsor: D. Cloney, Ellen Miller, Matthew Lund

Date: 2-15-2006

Course Title: Topics in the History of Philosophy

Anticipated Date for Course/Program Offering:

B. List specific resources that should be acquired to support this course.

B. See attached.

C. Describe the resources available in the library to support this course/program, including reference, monographic, electronic databases, audio-visual materials, etc. A summary statement is sufficient.

See attached.

D. List key periodicals available in the library to support this course/program.

See attached.

E. Librarian comments & recommendations:

See attached.

LIBRARIAN LIAISON: Cynthia Mullens

Signature: Cynthia M. Mullens

B. Resources are sufficient to support this course, and additional resources are not required to support this course.

C. Library Resources to Support course

1. Reference Books

A Routledge encyclopedia of philosophy, Ref.B51.R68 1998, v.1-10

b. Routledge history of philosophy, Ref. Ref. B51.4.R68 2003, v. 1-10

c. Encyclopedia of Chinese philosophy, B126.E496 2003

d. Encyclopedia of Asian philosophy, Ref. B121.E53 2001

2. Searching the online catalog yields a large number of books pertaining to subject.

3. Electronic/Paper databases

a. Philosopher's Index, Paper

b. Academic Search Premier, Electronic

c. Humanities, FT, Electronic

d. Humanities and Social Science Retro, Electronic

e. Project Muse, Electronic

f. J-Stor, Electronic

g. Historical Abstracts, Electronic

D. List key periodicals that support this course.

a. Journal of the history of philosophy, electronic & paper

b. Journal of Philosophy, electronic & paper

c. Philosophical Review, electronic & paper

E. Improve selection of primary sources for original writings of philosophers such as Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Hume, Popper, Heidegger, and Irigaray.