

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number     4515S  
Date of Senate Approval       03/19/15

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 37 (PHIL):**                   **Add new course, PHIL 308, Philosophy of Literature;  
Change the credit hours of PHIL 312, Applied Ethics**

**Effective Date: Fall 2015**

**1. Add:** On page 238, new course, **PHIL 308, Philosophy of Literature:**

**308     Philosophy of Literature (4)**

An exploration of some of the most intriguing and illuminating points of intersection between philosophy and literature, including interpretation in criticism, the nature of critical evaluation, truth in fiction, and metaphor. Coursework may include philosophical approaches to the understanding of literary texts (issues of truth, authorship, selfhood), literary texts that explicitly invoke philosophical problems or approaches, and/or problems raised by certain philosophical texts whose proper use requires careful attention to their form. The specific literature the course examines will change according to the interests and needs of the instructor and the students. Examples include science fiction, classics, existential novels/drama or Asian literatures. Course may be repeated as literatures change. Odd years Spring.

**Impact:** The course will have minimal negative impact on teaching load because it will enter the curriculum as an option to PHIL 303, 304, 305, 307 and 310, out of which students choose at least one course. On the other hand the positive impact will be substantial, as it will provide a course which students will find very interesting and will increase their choices in our curriculum while at the same time creating an opportunity for all the faculty to teach a specific literature which is relevant to their needs and interests.

**Rationale:** As noted in the impact statement, the philosophy department is continually working to improve the opportunities for our students/majors to choose among a range of courses. Creating rotating courses like this, in which the topics change as the instructors change, is one good way to increase those opportunities. Also, it contributes to the breadth of philosophical issues we can engage students with.

**2. Delete:** On page 238, the credit hours for **PHIL 312, Applied Ethics:**

**312     Applied Ethics (4)**

**Add:** On page 238, in place of deleted entry:

**312     Applied Ethics (3-4)**

**Impact:** This should have minimal impact because the course functions only as an elective, and so would not create any problems with credit-hour counting for students, given that all students at the moment still have a mix of courses with different credit hours.

**Rationale:** Having a variable credit option for PHIL 312 gives the department the flexibility to cross-list the course with classes from other departments that have a 3-credit curriculum. One of the courses we anticipate cross-listing with is ENVR 324. This is an applied ethics course being taught regularly by a philosopher. It makes sense for us to allow our students to get philosophy credit for it. But, we can also see how it might be possible to cross-list with other departments that regularly deal with ethics issues.