

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 1817S
Date of Senate Approval 01/19/17

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 15 (PHIL):

**Add new courses in Philosophy:
PHIL 217, Buddhist Philosophy
PHIL 321, Philosophy of Disability
PHIL 323, Philosophy of Third World Feminism**

Effective Date: Fall 2017

1. Add: On page 253, new course, **PHIL 217:**

217 Buddhist Philosophy (4)

A survey of the main philosophical themes, arguments and analyses presented in the different versions of Buddhism, including Theravada Abhidharma, and Mahayana schools like the Madhyamaka and Zen. Themes included range from contemporary Buddhist topics like socially engaged Buddhism and women in Buddhism to traditional Buddhist themes of contemplation, impermanence and no-abiding-self. Even years Fall.

2. Add: On page 255, new course, **PHIL 321:**

321 Philosophy of Disability (4)

A philosophical examination of impairment and disability in personal and social contexts. Students will be introduced to histories of disability and Disability Studies. Topics in Disability Studies will be addresses from the perspectives of metaphysics, philosophy of religion, history of (Western) philosophy, feminist and queer theory, political philosophy, and ethics. Odd years Fall.

3. Add: On page 255, new course, **PHIL 323:**

323 Philosophy of Third World Feminism (4)

Philosophical analyses of issues faced by women in their various third world contexts and feminist theorizing about third world women's oppression, resistance and activism that is historically, socially, economically and geographically situated. This course analyzes how various factors of cultural, religious, economic and familial institutions, traditions and practices interact to shape women's lives and their everyday experience of marginalization. The term "third world" is used in this course to enable critical engagement with its range of connotations. Feminist theorizing enables us to highlight how solidarity compliments equality in feminist consciousness in the third world contexts. Finally, third world feminist analyses also help us recognize dimensions of feminist agency and autonomy that would otherwise have remained underexplored. Odd year Spring.

Impact: The addition of these course will have no known negative impact on the Philosophy major, minor and university requirements. It will also not affect the department's staffing needs and course offerings especially since each of these courses will be offered once in every five semesters. PHIL 217 will be offered in rotation with PHIL 313, PHIL 315 and PHIL 317. PHIL 321 and 323 will be offered in rotation with PHIL 320, PHIL 302 and PHIL 365. This addition will have a positive impact in terms of student interest and in substantially diversifying our course offerings.

Rationale: These courses will truly diversify our course offerings and align the course offerings with the University mission. Two of these courses are also going to be cross-listed (PHIL 217 with Religious Studies, and PHIL 323 with WGSS) thereby reaching a wide cross-section of students. A version of Buddhist Philosophy has been offered in Fall 2012 by Keya Maitra as a very successful LS 179. Philosophy of Disability was offered as a Contemporary Philosophy (PHIL 352) course by Scott Williams during Spring 2016 and was positively received by students. Finally, Philosophy of Third World Feminism is being offered this Fall as a Special Topics (PHIL 374) course by Keya Maitra and has an enrollment of 10 students. We believe the enrollment number is going to go up since now Philosophy students can get major and minor credits for it and will also count as an elective course for WGSS majors.