

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4722S
Date of Senate Approval 3/31/2022

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 42 (ESI): **Change ESI 101 and ESI 490 from 3 to 4 credits**

Effective Date: Fall 2022

1. **Delete:** On page 188, the entry for **ESI 101:**

101 Introduction to Ethics and Social Institutions (3)

Assesses the ethical implications of both the processes and the outcomes of social decision-making. Students will acquire an understanding of the structure of social institutions and the processes through which social choices are made. Central to the analysis is a study of ethics as a criterion for assessment of social decision-making with emphasis on the study of particular issues of social choice. Fall.

Add: On page 188, in place of deleted entry:

101 Introduction to Ethics and Social Institutions (4)

Assesses the ethical implications of both the processes and the outcomes of social decision-making. Students will acquire an understanding of the structure of social institutions and the processes through which social choices are made. Central to the analysis is a study of ethics as a criterion for assessment of social decision-making with emphasis on the study of particular issues of social choice. Fall.

2. **Delete:** On page 188, the entry for **ESI 490:**

490 Senior Research in Ethics and Social Institutions (3)

Guided research on a topic of interest in Ethics and Social Institutions. The research project serves as the senior capstone experience for ESI majors. An IP grade may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor. See program coordinator.

Add: On page 188, in place of deleted entry:

490 Senior Research in Ethics and Social Institutions (4)

Guided research on a topic of interest in Ethics and Social Institutions. The research project serves as the senior capstone experience for ESI majors. An IP grade may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor. Prerequisites: ESI 101 and junior standing. See program coordinator.

Impact Statement: The proposed changes will add 2 credit hours to the major, bringing the total hours for the major concentration to 50. This should have minimal impact on students' ability to complete the program in a timely fashion. It will also add at least one credit hour to the teaching load of anyone staffing the course, but this should actually be helpful in that it will bring the teaching load in line with the standard accounting of the majority of the university's departments, as most have shifted to 4 credit hour classes now (see Rationale below). **Even though it adds a credit hour to the load of anyone teaching it, the change would not prevent anyone from teaching either of these courses, as they would already be teaching the course at 3 credit hours. So the commitment to their teaching load is already made. Speaking**

specifically for the Philosophy department, as we are making a change to the department's curriculum that will slightly increase our ability to contribute to other programs, we do not see any difficulty in the near future in being able to staff this course and still continue to contribute strongly to LAC and other programs.

Because the courses have two content areas, the extra time created by the added credit hour in ESI 101 will be very helpful to set the stage for the major. It will allow us to do a better job of teaching both the nature of social institutions, and the nature of ethics (both large topics) as well as doing the work of integrating the two topics in an effective way in the capstone course.

ESI 101 is the required introduction to the major. For the last 2 years, it has also been used by the LEAD Living/Learning Community as their anchor course, and has enrolled 16-22 students. It has been taught by Melissa Burchard for the last several years, but will be taught by Brian Butler in Fall 2022, and could also be taught by other members of the philosophy department as well as by members of Sociology or Economics. It is taught in a lecture and discussion format.

ESI 490 has tended to be taught as an independent study due to the small size of the major concentration. Consequently, it is usually an overload on some instructor's schedule, which is not an ideal situation, but for which there doesn't seem to be an option for the present. It is being taught currently by Melissa Burchard with 2 students, but could be taught by any member of the philosophy department, as well as any member of Sociology or Economics who has taught a senior capstone course. It is taught in a seminar format, and is offered on an as-needed basis when we have graduating seniors in the program.

SLOs for ESI 101 are the following:

1. To deepen understanding of ethics, institutions and societies, and understand the relationships among them.
2. To gain knowledge of traditional and contemporary views of ethics.
3. To gain knowledge of traditional and contemporary views of the roles of institutions in social life.
4. To learn how to look critically at existing institutions and recognize the values they *presuppose* and the ways they support specific exercises of power/influence.

SLOs for ESI 490 are the following:

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of how their elected coursework for the ESI major works together to create a substantive theme, and will apply/reflect that understanding in their research project.
2. Students will demonstrate required competences through their written and oral work in the course.
3. Students will create an appropriate, scholarly product based on instructor-approved research and/or creative practice.

Concurrences have been received from Health and Wellness and from International Studies, as both of those programs use ESI 101 as an option in their programs.

Concurrences have also been secured from both Sociology and Economics, as those are the other departments that seem most likely in the near future to possibly staff the ESI 101 course, although it is currently expected that the Philosophy department will be able to continue staffing the course on a regular basis.

Rationale: The norm across the social sciences and the humanities is 4-credit-hour courses, which allows us to pursue a topic in more depth and to cover more material, which is beneficial to student learning. The changes are being proposed to help bring teaching assignments into alignment across the several disciplines that are likely to teach in the program. Philosophy, Economics, Sociology and Anthropology, and Political Science are the disciplines that contribute most courses to the program, and all of them have shifted to 4 credit hour courses. Consequently, when someone from one of these departments teaches ESI 101 or 490, they end up being 1 hour short in their assigned teaching load (11 hours per semester instead of 12). This creates accounting difficulties for the department and the instructor.