



Department of Philosophy
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and
Letters

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Date: January 4, 2018

To: Undergraduate Programs Committee

From: Marina Banchetti, Chair
Department of Philosophy
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RE: New Course Proposals, Title Changes, and Changes to Catalog Copy

The department of philosophy is proposing one new course, one course title change, and revisions to the catalog copy.

The first proposal is for a new course in 'Philosophy of Sexuality', to be offered as an elective option for the major in philosophy. Such a course existed about 20 years ago but, due to the professor's focus in this course, the content slowly changed into a course on feminist philosophy. Because of this, the title of the course was changed to 'Feminist Philosophy' and 'Philosophy of Sexuality' was, as a result, dropped from our curriculum. Most recently, a special topics course on the topic of philosophy of sexuality and love was offered as an online class and registered very well. Therefore, the department is proposing to add "Philosophy of Sexuality" once again to our curriculum as an online course and as part of the list of electives for the major.

The second proposal is a course title change for PHH 3700 from 'American Philosophy' to 'Pragmatism', as well as a change in course description to better reflect the current content of the course. Originally, the course was a survey course covering the pragmatist philosophers (Peirce, James, and Dewey) and the transcendentalists (Thoreau and Emerson). However, in time, the content of the course has become an in-depth study of pragmatism and, as such, no longer covers American transcendentalism. This change in focus is due to a revival of interest in the ideas of Peirce, James, and Dewey that is due, in large part, to pragmatism's tremendous international impact on the development of contemporary philosophy. The new title and course description more accurately reflect the current focus of the course.

The third item is a change to catalog copy to reflect the above new courses and title change. The catalog copy for the BA. in philosophy has also been revised to clarify the requirement for the major for students.