

From: Nicholas Baima nbaima@fau.edu
Subject: Re: Course title change
Date: April 21, 2026 at 14:45
To: Terje Hill terjehill@fau.edu

OK, but then why ask.

Nicholas R. Baima
Chair of Department of Philosophy
Associate Professor of Philosophy
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From: Terje Hill
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 2:37 PM
To: Nicholas Baima
Cc: Mary Ann Gosser
Subject: Re: Course title change

Hi Nich,

Thank you for your prompt reply. After consulting with our economics and political science faculty, we would like to move forward with the proposed title change. Below is an explanation for this decision provided by the course instructor.

Sincerely,
Terje

Dear Honors College Curriculum Committee,

Thank you for your review of the proposed course title and description. I appreciate the opportunity to further clarify the rationale behind the title ECO 4053 Honors Philosophy and Theory of Markets, as the intellectual reasons previously provided for the title change did not appear to be the focus of Dr. Baima's response.

The intellectual justification for including "philosophy" in the title is grounded in the course content itself, which engages deeply with methodological, epistemological, and historical questions within economics. As outlined in the proposal, the course is situated within the growing interdisciplinary field of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), and aims to expose students to the philosophical foundations underlying market processes.

We do not view this course as competing with offerings in other departments. The Honors College operates as a separate college, and our students are not in direct competition with those in other departments. More broadly, this course reflects the Honors College's mission to

those in other departments. More broadly, this course reflects the Honors College's mission to promote interdisciplinary learning. Many of our courses are intentionally designed to bridge traditional disciplinary boundaries, and this offering contributes to that goal by connecting economic analysis with philosophical inquiry. A course like this can satisfy elective requirements not only in economics but also in other areas within the Honors College, such as law and society. This is a direct result of our emphasis on interdisciplinary concentrations. Offerings like this also help address a local need by expanding the range of elective options available to students. In fact, successful innovation in course offerings within one college can often encourage and inspire similar developments elsewhere.

It is also worth noting that interdisciplinary terminology is commonly shared across fields. Terms such as "philosophy," "theory," or "methodology" are frequently used in various disciplines to signal engagement with foundational questions. In this context, the use of "philosophy" in the title is meant to accurately reflect the course's focus on the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of economic thought. Further, several of the authors we study are often considered as "political philosophers," even though their disciplinary training was originally in economics.

It is also important to recognize that terms such as "philosophy" are not exclusive to a single discipline. Interdisciplinary language is common throughout the university. For example, economics regularly offers courses such as "Mathematical Economics," even though mathematics is a distinct discipline. Similarly, one finds courses like "Artificial Intelligence in Biology," "Statistical Methods in Psychology," "Bioinformatics," "History and Systems of Psychology," "Biomedical Ethics," "Philosophy of Science", etc., in our FAU catalog. In each of these cases, terminology associated with one field is used within another to reflect the integration of methods or perspectives.

Finally, the development of interdisciplinary areas such as PPE highlights the value of collaboration and cross-disciplinary perspectives. Courses like this one aim to contribute to that broader academic conversation and may also serve as a point of connection for students with interests spanning multiple fields.

For these reasons, I request that the proposed title be retained, as it accurately represents the content and goals of the course while aligning with the interdisciplinary mission of the Honors College.

Sincerely,
Dr. Keith Jakee
Professor of Economics
Wilkes Honors College
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Jupiter, FL 33458 USA
Keithjakee.com <<http://keithjakee.com/>>

On Apr 16, 2026, at 17:19, Nicholas Baima <nbaima@fau.edu> wrote:

Hi Terje,

I hope you are doing well. I shared the proposed course title with the philosophy faculty, and they have some concerns about it. Their view is that, given the ECO prefix and the fact that the course is taught by an economist, the title may give the impression that the course is philosophical in a disciplinary sense, which they do not feel is quite the case.

I am familiar with PPE programs, and we are currently in the early stages of developing one ourselves. The concern here is also institutional. When a course with an economics prefix carries “philosophy” in the title, it can create confusion when the philosophy program later proposes courses on closely related topics, especially those explicitly grounded in philosophical methods and canonical literature. In much the same way that we would hesitate to title a course “Economics of Markets”, there is some discomfort with an economics course carrying “Philosophy of Markets” in the title.

For these reasons, I would recommend not including “philosophy” in the title and having it be “Theories of Markets” or something like that.

Best,

Nich

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Plato's Pragmatism: Rethinking the Relationship between Ethics and EFrom: Terje Hill
<terjehill@fau.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Nicholas Baima <nbaima@fau.edu>
Subject: Course title change

Dear Chair Nicholas Baima,

Dr. Jakee has been teaching ECO 4053 at the Honors College for many years and would like to change the course title to ECO 4053 Honors Philosophy & Theory of Markets. Since the course aligns with the emerging subfield of “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics” (PPE), Mary Ann Gosser from UHC asked us to check with you to see if you have any objections to this title change. I have attached the syllabus and the course change form to this email for your reference.

Please get back to me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Dr. Terje Hill
Chair of the Honors College Curriculum Committee