4 April 2018

**Program Change Request**

Dear Vice Provost Randy Smith,

I am writing as Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Philosophy to submit a program change request.

The Philosophy Department is proposing a revision to the Ph.D. program that will add two new courses to the list of program requirements:

* PHIL 8001: Graduate Training Seminar
* PHIL 8900: Graduate Placement Seminar

These course proposals have been reviewed and unanimously approved by the Arts and Humanities 2 Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee.

The rationale for these revisions is to provide professional training for all of our graduate students when they enter the Ph.D. program and to prepare all of our graduate students to seek employment before they leave the PhD program. If possible, we would like to implement these changes in 2018-19.

With this letter, I am attaching a summary of our current program requirements together with a summary of the proposed changes. I am also attaching our current assessment plan.

Yours sincerely,



Declan Smithies

Director of Graduate Studies

Associate Professor

Department of Philosophy

The Ohio State University

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This document contains a summary of our current program requirements together with a summary of the proposed revisions.

**Current Program Requirements**

A full description of our current Ph.D. program requirements is available at the following link: <https://philosophy.osu.edu/phd-program-requirements>

Here is a brief summary of our current Ph.D. program requirements:

1. *Logic Competency Requirement*. All first-year students must show competence in elementary symbolic logic either by passing a logic competency examination or by enrolling in PHIL 2500 and receiving a grade of ‘B’ or better.
2. *Advanced Logic Requirement*. All graduate students are expected to enroll in and pass (by receiving a grade of ‘B’ or better) an advanced logic course, typically PHIL 5500, during their first year of full-time graduate study.
3. *First-Year Research Seminar*. Each graduate student in the Ph.D. program is required to take for a grade the First-Year Research Seminar (PHIL 8100) offered in the Autumn Semester of his or her first year of graduate study. This is a research seminar designed to equip first-year graduate students with the intellectual skills needed to succeed in the Ph.D. Program.
4. *Course Distribution Requirements*. There are four distribution areas: (i) History of Philosophy; (ii) Value Theory; (iii) Logic, Language, and Science; and (iv) Mind, Metaphysics, and Epistemology. Students must take and pass, with a grade of ‘B+’ or better, at least two seminars in the history of philosophy, at least two courses in one other distribution area, and at least one course in each of the remaining two areas.
5. *Course Number Requirements*. Before the end of their sixth semester of full-time graduate study, students must pass at least 14 courses offered by or approved in advance by the Philosophy Department, including at least 9 graduate seminars, with grade ‘B’ or better.
6. *The Candidacy Exam*. The Candidacy Examination must be taken before the end of the fourth week of the sixth semester of full-time graduate study. The Candidacy Examination is a single examination that has two parts: a written examination in an area of philosophy and a subsequent oral examination that may include discussion of the material provided in the written examination. The written examination has two parts: (i) A critical survey, of no more than 7500 words of the literature included on the student’s Bibliography; and (ii) An original paper, also of no more than 7500 words on a subject relevant to the literature included on the student’s Bibliography.
7. *The Dissertation Prospectus Exam*. The Dissertation Prospectus Examination must be taken before the end of the seventh semester of full-time graduate study. The Dissertation Prospectus Examination will consist in a written part and an oral part. The written part will consist of the student’s dissertation prospectus and a substantive paper on the subject of the dissertation, perhaps a chapter of the dissertation. The oral part will consist of a subsequent oral examination that may include discussion of the material provided in the written examination.
8. *Continuing Education*. All graduate students in residence who have passed the Candidacy Examination are required to sit in on one seminar each year in addition to the Dissertation Seminar.
9. *The Dissertation Seminar*. All graduate students in residence who have passed their Dissertation Prospectus Examination are required to enroll in the Dissertation Seminar. The Seminar will normally be offered annually during the Spring Semester. Students enrolled in the Seminar will be required to present work of their own, e.g. a chapter or a part of a chapter from their dissertation.
10. *The Final Oral Examination*. The Final Oral Examination committee consists of the student’s reading committee and a Graduate School representative appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. Additional changes or emendations may be suggested at the time of the student's defense of the dissertation at the Final Oral Examination. The Final Oral Examination is passed if and only if the vote is unanimously positive. Before the student turns in the final copy of the dissertation at the Graduate School office, certification of approval must be received from his or her reading committee.

**Revised Program Requirements**

The revised Ph.D. program requirements remain the same as before with the addition of the following two requirements:

1. *Graduate Training Seminar*. All first-year and second-year graduate students are required to enroll in the Graduate Training Seminar. This course is designed to provide professional training for graduate students that will enable them to develop the professional skills required for success in research, teaching, and service. The course will include individual meetings to discuss progress and future plans, attendance and participation in departmental research colloquia, teaching workshops, and professional training workshops on a series of issues, including graduate program requirements and expectations, norms of professional conduct, academic and nonacademic careers, and diversity and inclusion.
2. *Graduate Placement Seminar*. All graduate students are required to enroll in the Graduate Placement Seminar at least once before completing the Ph.D. This seminar helps to prepare graduate students in the penultimate or final year of their studies to seek employment, especially academic employment in philosophy departments. Participants are informed about employment options and resources. They prepare, workshop, and revise the central elements of the dossiers they will need in order to seek academic employment. Participants are given guidance on the timing and character of the academic job market in philosophy, soliciting letters of recommendation, how to empower recommenders to write strong letters, and how to develop and manage their professional profile. They give research presentations to the Philosophy department’s colloquium series, and engage in practice interviews designed to prepare them for typical interviews on the academic job market. Participants whose professional goals are not well served by these activities may negotiate with the professor at the outset of the course to identify a similar workload of assignments tailored to the student’s professional goals.

These courses will not count towards our existing course number requirements or course distribution requirements.

**Credit Hours**

Both PHIL 8001 and PHIL 8999 are repeatable with variable credit hours, i.e. a minimum of 1 credit hour and a maximum of 3 credit hours:

* PHIL 8001 will be taken by all first-year and second-year graduate students: the course will be taken for 3 credit hours the first time and 2 credit hours the second time.
* PHIL 8999 will be taken at least one and sometimes twice by students in their penultimate or final year before completion: the course will be taken for 3 credit hours the first time and 2 credit hours the second time.

Our first-year and second-year students will continue to take no more than 18 credit hours in any given semester, while our post-candidacy students will continue to take no more than 6 credit hours in any given semester.

Here is a summary of our total program requirements:

* 14 courses of 3-4 credit hours each, i.e. 42-56 credits in total.
* Graduate training seminar repeated twice, i.e. 5 credits in total.
* Graduate placement seminar repeated twice, i.e. 5 credits in total.
* Total credits = 52-66 credits.

The remaining credit hours to reach the 80 credit hour minimum required by the Graduate School will be accumulated through repeated iterations of the dissertation seminar together with independent studies conducted with the advisor of the student’s dissertation committee.