

# Curriculum Proposal Signature Sheet

Phil 339 - Philosophy of the Person

TITLE OF PROPOSAL

## Type of Proposal

### Program

- New
- Changes within Major
- Changes within Cognate \*
- Changes in Minor or Track
- Changes in Concentration\*
- Program Deletion

### Course

- New
- Changes in Course taken only by Majors
- Changes in Course required of Non-Majors\*
- Changes in Course open to Non-Majors
- Deletion of Course taken only by Majors
- Deletion of Course required of Non-Majors\*
- Deletion of Course open to Non-Majors

Philosophy Department

SPONSORING DEPARTMENT(S)

Review and Approval 3/2/09

DATE(S)

Signature of Sponsoring Chair(s)/Date

Kevin Nordley 3/2/09

\* For starred items Chairs of affected Departments/Programs must sign below before Dean's review

Dean's Preliminary Review

Proposal:  Complete

Additional preliminary comments below

- Satisfies U of S Curricular Requirements
- Consistent with College Goals/Mission

Dean's Signature/Date

[Signature]

3-6-09

CAS

CPS

SOM

GRAD

DHC

### Preliminary FSCC Disposition:

- Committee recommends approval (*new program proposals require a Recommendation from the full Senate*)
- Proposal will require minimal review: Anticipated FS Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Proposal will require significant review: Anticipated FS Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FSCC Chair Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Issues: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Signatures

Department	Signature	Date
Department	Signature	Date
Department	Signature	Date

New Course

Course Title: Philosophy of the Person

Course Number: 339 Date Of Initial Offering: Spring 2010  
*Semester year*

Rationale for Course level

This is a 300 level Philosophy course, indeed a higher order 300 level course because the conceptual material with which it deals is inherently complex, falling as it does under the general umbrella of philosophy of mind and specifically within the area in Philosophy best termed the metaphysics of personal identity.

Credit Hours: 3.0 Format:  lecture  lab  other: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency:  annual  each semester  alternate years

Prerequisites: Philosophy 120-Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophy 210-Ethics

Rationale for pre-requisites (if pre-requisites are listed)

Philosophy of the Person is a General Education Philosophy elective and all General Education Philosophy electives have these two courses as a minimum prerequisites.

Catalog Description (50 word maximum)

This course will investigate the nature of the person and conditions for personhood. Such concepts as human being, soul, self, ego, consciousness, substance, mind, rationality, intentionality, sentience and reciprocity will be examined. Questions about self-same personal identity, divine personhood and the personhood of animals will be addressed.

Similar Courses being offered at the University

None to my knowledge.

Discuss Extent of overlap with existing courses

While all courses in Philosophy in some way address questions about human nature, as do some courses in other disciplines, this course has as its central concern the philosophical, conceptual conditions for personhood and the metaphysics of personal identity. To my knowledge no courses in any discipline have such concerns as their primary focus.

**Special Resources Required (e.g. library, equipment, materials/facilities)**

None

**Characteristics** (check any/all that apply):

**Major:**  Required  Elective  
**GE :**  submitted to CCC  will be submitted to CCC \_\_\_\_\_  Area Free only  
*date*

<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities (CA)	<input type="checkbox"/> S/B Sciences (S)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Diversity (D)
<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities (CH)	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Science (E)	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Intensive(W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities (CL)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theology/Phil (P)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities (CF)	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantitative Reasoning (Q)	

**Interdisciplinary:**  YES  NO    **Team Teaching:**  YES  NO

**Exclusively For Special Programs/Concentrations:**  NO  YES (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Home College:**  CAS     PCPS     KSOM     GRAD

**Required Attachments:**

- Syllabus with student learning objectives, assessment/evaluation mechanisms, and outline of topics
- Description of, or example of, readings/papers/projects/examinations
- Assessment/evaluation based course improvement mechanisms

NB: This course is currently being piloted as Phil. 384: Special Topics-Philosophy of the Person during this current 2009 Spring semester. It was approved by the CCC as a General Education Philosophy elective (it has the "P" designation). I have attached both the syllabus and the complete General Education Course Proposal which, in my view, taken together, address the topics/issues listed under the Required Attachments section of this new course proposal.

Spring 2009

Phil 384: Special Topic: Philosophy of the Person  
Professor: Dr. Richard J. Klonoski  
Office: T556  
Phone: 941-7436  
Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 11:30 - 1:00 AND BY APPOINTMENT

**I. REQUIRED TEXT**

*The Person: Readings in Human Nature.* Edited by William O. Stephens, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

What is a person and what are the conditions for personhood? Is the nature of a person comprehended by any or all of such concepts as human being, soul, self, ego, consciousness, substance, mind, or the mind/body composite? Is personal identity self-same across the entire span of a person's life? Do persons persist after death? Are there divine persons? Through a careful reading of a variety of texts from throughout the history of philosophy these and other such questions about the nature of personhood will be addressed.

**III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

A) Daily Assignments: All reading assignments will be given in advance; daily class preparation is mandatory.

B) Class Participation: The course will be a balanced mixture of lectures and class discussions each of these having their own particular significance for the success of the course as a whole. All students are expected and encouraged to take part in class discussions.

C) Exams: All students will take three texts plus a final exam at the end of the semester, i.e., four (4) tests altogether. The material for these examinations will be taken from assigned readings, lectures and class discussions. Students will also write a 5 page paper. Each exam and the paper will count equally toward the final grade.

D) Grade Scale:

95-100	A
94-92	A-
91-89	B+
88-85	B
84-81	B-
80-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-64	D+
63-61	D
60-Below	F

E) Attendance: An attendance record will be kept. Excessive absence will make it very difficult to pass this course--be prudent!!!! Four (4) cuts may result in an F in the course.

**General Education Course Proposal**  
**Special Topics: Phil 384 – Philosophy of the Person**  
**Richard J. Klonoski, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy – 6 October, 2008**

**1.0 Course Title and Brief Description**

Philosophy of the Person – A survey of philosophical theories from throughout the History of Philosophy that address the question, “What is a person?”

**2.0 Course Objectives**

All students will:

- read important texts that discuss the nature of and conditions for personhood, placing these texts in both historical and conceptual contexts.
- discuss and write analyses of primary texts from the ancient up to the contemporary period in the History of Philosophy, and understand similarities and differences among major thinkers who have developed theories about the nature of the person.
- understand the significance of determining the nature of the person for their own self-understanding and development as human beings and for their responsibilities to other persons in the world.

**3.0 Brief List of Topics to be Addressed in the Course**

- person as self, soul, substance, ego, mind, consciousness, mind/body composite
- personal identity.
- conceptual conditions for personhood, including but not limited to, rationality, sentience, intentionality, reciprocity, verbal communication, distinctive consciousness, autonomy/self-determination, recipient of rights, biological self-sustaining organic being.
- non-human persons including animals and divine persons, immortality of persons.

**4.0 Brief List of Assignments**

- Required daily reading of primary philosophical texts from throughout the History of Philosophy which discuss personhood.
- Required daily analysis and in-class discussion of philosophy texts which endeavor to determine the nature of the person, of the historical context in which these theories were developed, and of the similarities and differences among thinkers who advanced theories about personhood.
- Occasional quizzes on daily readings.
- Periodic in-class exams which include both short answer questions and longer, argumentative essay questions.
- A paper which requires students to incorporate the philosophical theories about the nature of personhood into their own understanding of what constitutes a person and the significance of the nature of personhood for their own self-understanding and development as human beings and for their responsibilities to other persons in the world.

## **5.0 Evaluation**

The approach in Philosophy of the Person will be a mixture of formal lecture about and explication of primary Philosophy texts and in-class Socratic discussion of those texts. Consequently, material for all student evaluation will be taken from the assigned readings, lectures, and in-class discussions. The assigned texts will be the hub around which all lectures and discussions will revolve and largely the basis from which questions for quizzes and exams will be constructed. In the exams and quizzes students will be graded on the accuracy with which students understand and explain key philosophical theories and concepts about personhood that have been developed by major thinkers. In addition, students will write a final paper in which they will demonstrate knowledge of selected philosophical theories about human nature and personhood by accurately delineating these theories as one requirement for the assignment and then incorporating this aforesaid knowledge into their own clearly articulated view of what is a person. This latter requirement will serve to ensure that students have reflected on the course material not only for the purpose of correctly understanding the selected texts but for the purpose of understanding themselves as persons and for understanding their responsibilities to other persons in the world. The professor will review quizzes, tests, and the course paper with an eye toward determining the extent of student comprehension and adjust the mixture and proportional relation between formal lecture and class discussion-based treatment of the reading materials and adjust that mixture or proportion as needed.

## **6.0 Prerequisites/Rationale**

Philosophy 120 – Introduction to Philosophy

Philosophy 210 – Ethics

Philosophy of the Person is a General Education Philosophy elective and all General Education Philosophy electives have these two courses as minimum prerequisites.

## **7.0 Course Level/Rational**

This is a 300 level Philosophy course and indeed a higher order 300 level course because the conceptual material with which it deals is inherently complex, falling as it does under the general umbrella of philosophy of mind and specifically within the area in Philosophy best termed the metaphysics of personal identity.

339  
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**Selection of Readings for  
Philosophy 384: Special Topics: Philosophy of the Person**

Plato, Phaedo, 80c – 84b

Phaedrus, 246a-b, 253d-256e

Republic, 439c-442b

Aristotle, De Anima, ii.2, iii. 4-5

Cicero, On Obligations, I Sec. 105-118

Epictetus, The Discourses, i.2, i.29

The Encheiridion, Sec. 17, Sec. 37

Boethius, Contra Eutchen, Sec. 2-4

Rene Descartes, Treatise on Man, excerpt

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, 1<sup>st</sup> part, Chapter 16

John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, ii. 27, Sec. 9-27

David Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature, Book I, Part 4, Sec. 6

Immanuel Kant, Critique of Pure Reason,

“Third Paralogism of Personality”

Religion Within the Bounds of Mere Reason, excerpt

The Doctrine of Virtue, excerpts

Soren Kierkegaard, Sickness Unto Death, excerpt

Auguste Comte, The Positive Philosophy, excerpt

Friedrich Nietzsche, The Gay Science, Sec. 345

Beyond Good and Evil, Part 1 Sec. 6, 16-19, Part 2 Sec 41, Part 3 Sec. 54, Part 6  
Sec. 207

The Will to Power, Sec. 886

Jean-Paul Sartre, “Existentialism”, excerpt

Ifeanyi A. Menkiti, “Person and Community in African Traditional Thought”

Ronald Puccetti, “The Life of a Person”

Karol Wojtyla, "Thomistic Personalism",  
"On the Dignity of the Human Person",  
"The Human Person and Natural Law"

Amelie O. Rorty, "Persons and Personae"

William O. Stephens, "Masks, Androids, and Primates: The Evolution of the Concept of the Person"

The Boyd Group, "The Moral Status of Non-Human Primates: Are Apes Persons?"