

March 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Mark Zoran, Chair, Graduate Council
Through: Dr. Patricia Hurley, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
From: Dr. Gary Varner, Interim Head, Department of Philosophy
Subject: Proposal for Early Modern Track in Philosophy PhD

*GC Approved
10-20-12*
Patricia A. Hurley

The PhD in Philosophy at Texas A&M University currently requires students to have or obtain a master's degree in a field other than philosophy. Fulfilling the requirements of the master's is intended to complement the philosophy PhD and improve students' job opportunities. But for students who focus on early modern philosophy, a complementary master's degree does not enhance their scholarly development or employment prospects as much as in-depth study of 17th and 18th century topics and figures in a variety of disciplines.

We therefore propose to modify our PhD to allow students working specifically in early modern philosophy to take 24 hours of approved graduate courses in several fields (e.g., communication, English, history, mathematics, modern languages, physics, political science) instead of getting a master's in a single discipline. No more than four courses could be taken in the same academic department; each student's course of studies would be overseen by a faculty committee; and students would have to complete a 20-page (minimum) publishable paper (as determined by the committee) that incorporates aspects of their interdisciplinary studies.

The proposal does not drop the required complementary master's degree at A&M for other PhD philosophy students; it merely adds an option for those students who write a dissertation on some aspect of early modern philosophy. This recommendation springs from the 2008 Academic Program Review in which the Department was encouraged to make its PhD graduates more attractive to research-intensive doctoral institutions by modifying its complementary master's requirement to take advantage of our program's strengths. Last year in our strategic plan we identified early modern philosophy as one of our two areas of targeted excellence, and our program in 17th century philosophy was ranked among the top 30 in the U.S. By having an early modern track in our PhD program, we want our students to be able to take advantage of this status and not be hindered by the fact that there is no master's degree that provides the interdisciplinary training most valued in 17th and 18th century scholarship.

Philosophy departments elsewhere sometimes link their PhDs to the history and philosophy of science, classics, cognitive science, linguistics, and gender studies, but no other program singles out early modern philosophy for special treatment in an interdisciplinary context. Our proposal would thus make our PhD program distinctive and allow our graduates the flexibility to enhance their mastery of early modern thought in a way that would promote our national prominence.

**Proposal to Modify Requirements for Philosophy PhD at Texas A&M University:
Early Modern Philosophy Track**

The PhD in Philosophy at Texas A&M University requires students to have or obtain a master's degree in a field other than philosophy. Fulfilling the requirements of the master's degree is intended to complement the philosophy PhD and improve students' job opportunities. But for students who focus on early modern philosophy, a complementary master's degree does not enhance their scholarly development or employment prospects as much as in-depth study of 17th and 18th century topics and figures in a variety of disciplines. We therefore propose to modify our PhD to allow students working specifically in early modern philosophy to take 24 hours of approved graduate courses in several fields instead of getting a master's in a single discipline.

Philosophy departments elsewhere sometimes have joint JD/Philosophy PhD or MD/Philosophy PhD degrees. Others link up with non-philosophy programs to create philosophy PhDs in the history and philosophy of science, classics, cognitive science, linguistics, and gender studies (Appendix 1), and a few allow for or require minors (Appendix 2). But no other program singles out early modern philosophy for special or extensive treatment. This is striking, considering the consistent demand for teachers specializing in early modern philosophy and the history of philosophy (Appendix 3). If our early modern philosophy program were recognized for providing a distinctively broad background in 17th and 18th century scholarship, it could attract more students who would be appealing to a wider range of institutions upon graduation.

Even the External Committee charged with our 2008 Program Review recognized that amending the master's requirement would expand our applicant pool and placement opportunities:

- "If, as the Department's visibility grows, it decides to revise the requirements for the PhD to attract more traditional applicants by waiving the requirement for a complementary master's degree, its applicant pool for the PhD program will grow as well."
- "If the requirements of the [PhD] program are amended as the Department gains national recognition, research-intensive doctoral institutions will also find [the Department's PhD graduates] attractive."

Having an interdisciplinary early modern option would achieve these objectives in a unique way. Specifically, the early modern philosophy track will include these features:

- Twenty-four (24) hours of non-philosophy graduate courses from an approved list (Appendix 4)
- Oversight of each student's course of studies by an interdisciplinary faculty committee
- Completion of a 20-page (minimum) publishable paper (as determined by the faculty committee) that incorporates aspects of the student's interdisciplinary studies
- No more than four courses (12 hours) in the same academic department
- Each course completed with a grade of B or better
- Notation of the early modern focus on the student's transcript

This proposal does not drop the required complementary master's degree at A&M for other PhD philosophy students; it merely adds an option for those students who write a dissertation on some aspect of early modern philosophy. The impact on our overall program would therefore be minor, but it would be significant for those students who take advantage of it.

Appendix 3: Recent Advertisements in <i>Jobs for Philosophers</i> (Online or In Print) for a Specialist in Early Modern Philosophy or the History of Philosophy			
Date	Jobs Listed	Specialization in Early Modern/History	% of Jobs Advertised
November 2011	176	29	16%
October 2011	194	29	15%
September 2011	68	11	16%
June 2011	48	10	21%
April 2011	187	19	10%
February 2011	331	22	7%
October 2010	157	29	18%
Totals	1161	149	13%

Appendix 4: Non-Philosophy Graduate Courses Approved for Early Modern Philosophy PhD Program	
Course Number	Course Title
ANTH 609	Culture and Evolution
ANTH 635	Violence and Warfare
ANTH 648	Issues in Human Evolutionary Theory
COMM/ENGL 654	History and Theory of Rhetoric to 1800
ENGL/LING 610	Topics in the History of the English Language (when applicable)
ENGL 611	Topics in Early Modern Literature and Culture
ENGL 613	Readings in Early Modern Literature
ENGL 618	Readings in 18th Century British Literature
ENGL 638	Topics in 18th/19th Century British Literature and Culture (when applicable)
ENGL 666	Topics in Textual Studies and Book History (when applicable)
ENGL 667	Topics in the History and Theory of Rhetoric (when applicable)
HISP 630	Studies in Latin American Literature (when applicable)
HISP 640	History of Ideas in the Hispanic World
HISP 665	Studies in Spanish Literature
HIST 601	Colonial North America
HIST 643	European History from the Renaissance to the French Revolution
POLS 650	Normative Political Theory
POLS 654	Theories of Political Legitimacy, Order and Obligation
Special Topics (689) and Directed Studies (685) courses must be approved by the student's interdisciplinary faculty committee.	

ANTH

Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [ANTH]
From: Sheela Athreya <athreya@tamu.edu>
Date: 5/1/2012 8:24 AM
To: Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
CC: Cynthia Werner <werner@tamu.edu>

Dear Gary,

I've heard back from Bruce Dickson and Mike Alvard who teach the ANTH 635 and ANTH 609 courses, respectively. I teach ANTH 648. All three of us would be more than happy to have PHIL students in these classes, and have no problem having them included in the new early modern philosophy track.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

Best wishes,
Sheela

Sheela Athreya, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Anthropology
Texas A&M University
4352 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
phone: 1-979-845-4785
fax: 1-979-845-4070

On Apr 30, 2012, at 8:58 AM, Gary Varner wrote:

Sheela -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for Anthropology, and I'm copying your department head so that she is aware of this request that I'm making of you.

As you know from the GIC meeting last week, the Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's GIC meeting, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy

ANTH, 2

obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following courses in your department:

ANTH 609 Culture and Evolution
ANTH 635 Violence and Warfare
ANTH 648 Issues in Human Evolutionary Theory

These are the courses that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)
<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/>
<Early Modern Track Proposal-2.pdf>

COMM

Subject: RE: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [COMM]
From: "Aune, James" <Jaune@tamu.edu>
Date: 4/30/2012 3:23 PM
To: "Barge, Kevin" <kbarge@tamu.edu>, Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>

I would enthusiastically welcome PHIL grad students in that class; I just want to make sure it's clear, Gary, that this course is cross-listed with ENGL, and we trade off on a somewhat irregular schedule. But 654 is always taught in the fall.

From: Barge, Kevin
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 3:20 PM
To: Gary Varner
Cc: Aune, James
Subject: RE: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [COMM]

Hey Gary,

Let me check with Jim on this, but I don't foresee this as a problem. The sign off on the proposal probably needs to come from Jim as Department Head.

Take care,

kevin

From: Gary Varner [<mailto:gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 8:50 AM
To: Barge, Kevin
Cc: Aune, James; Gary Varner
Subject: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [COMM]

Kevin -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for Communication, and I'm copying your department head so that he is aware of this request that I'm making of you.

As you know from the GIC meeting last week, the Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's GIC meeting, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following course in your department:

COMM, 2

COMM 654 History and Theory of Rhetoric to 1800

This is the course that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why it is listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner

Professor and Interim Head

Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University

(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)

<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/>

ENGL

Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [ENGL]
From: Nancy Warren <nwarren@tamu.edu>
Date: 4/30/2012 9:57 AM
To: Claudia Nelson <claudia_nelson@tamu.edu>
CC: Gary Varner <g-varner@tamu.edu>, Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>

I just want to add my voice in support of this effort. I primarily teach medieval literature, but on occasion I venture into the early modern period, and I personally would be delighted to have philosophy grad students in any course I taught that might be relevant for their degree programs. Speaking departmentally, I think this sort of interdisciplinary collaboration is a very good thing.

All the best,

Nancy

----- Original Message -----

From: "Claudia Nelson" <claudia_nelson@tamu.edu>
To: "Gary Varner" <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
Cc: "Nancy Warren" <nwarren@tamu.edu>, "Gary Varner" <g-varner@tamu.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 9:54:16 AM
Subject: RE: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [ENGL]

Dear Gary,

English would welcome your students. Here are some points about these courses that PHIL should be aware of for advising purposes:

--Readings courses (ENGL 613) are intended to look more like surveys of the literature of a period and do not suppose detailed knowledge on the part of the student. Topics courses are more specialized. We presently try to offer a given period's Readings and Topics courses in an alternation such that in any given year there will be one or the other, but not both; this does mean that for our students as for yours, some will matriculate during the year when the Topics course is being taught and will thus take it before the Readings course.

--As its name suggests, ENGL 638, Topics in 18th- and 19th-C. British Lit. and Culture, will sometimes focus on 18th- and sometimes on 19th-c topics. Since your definition of early modern embraces the one but not the other, you might want to add a phrase such as "when applicable" to your spreadsheet entry for this course. You might however want to add ENGL 618, Readings in 18th-C British Lit., which will always be a survey focusing on the 18th century.

--Similarly, ENGL/LING 610, Topics in the History of the English Language, will sometimes be used as the number under which the Old English/Beowulf sequence is taught--too early to be of interest to your early modernists, I assume. Here again a "when applicable" might be desirable.

--And ENGL 666 and 667 will also sometimes have an early modern focus and sometimes not.

--You might also note that COMM 654 is cross-listed with ENGL 654 and that students could register under either number.

Best,
Claudia

Claudia Nelson
Professor and Cornerstone Faculty Fellow

ENGL, 2

Interim Director of Graduate Studies
Department of English, Blocker 241C
TAMU 4227
College Station, TX 77843-4227
979-458-0377

From: Gary Varner [gary@philosophy.tamu.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 8:49 AM
To: Nelson, Claudia; grad-program@tamuenglish.org
Cc: Nancy Warren; Gary Varner
Subject: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [ENGL]

Claudia -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for English, and I'm copying your department head so that she is aware of this request that I'm making of you.

As you know from the GIC meeting last week, the Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's GIC meeting, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following courses in your department:

- ENGL 611 Topics in Early Modern Literature and Culture
- ENGL 613 Readings in Early Modern Literature
- ENGL 638 Topics in 18th and 19th Century British Literature and Culture
- ENGL 666 Topics in Textual Studies and Book History
- ENGL 667 Topics in the History and Theory of Rhetoric
- LING 610 Topics in the History of the English Language

These are the courses that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,


--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy <http://philosophy.tamu.edu>, Texas A&M University
(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)

April 12, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head, Department of Philosophy

FROM: Steven M. Oberhelman 
Interim Head, Department of International Studies

SUBJECT: Support for Ph.D. Proposal in Philosophy

Thank you for sharing with my Department your proposal for adding an option for doctoral students in the Department of Philosophy in the history of early modern philosophy. As part of your proposed curriculum, you have proposed adding two courses from my Department's inventory of graduate classes:

FREN 692 Readings in French Literary Texts
GERM 692 Readings in German Literary Texts

We would welcome the inclusion of your doctoral students in these classes and do not foresee any difficulty in accommodating them. I must stress two points, however. First, I do not know when we will be able to offer these courses, since they comprise part of our proposed Ph.D. Degree in European Studies. That proposal has been in a holding pattern at the Provost level for six years now, and we do not know if and when approval will be granted. Second, a student enrolled in either course will have to possess a reading proficiency in the target language (French or German) such as would allow her or him to read literary texts in the original. If the student does have advanced reading proficiency, we would be delighted to have her or him in the class.

HISP

Subject: RE: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [HISP]
From: "Hilaire Kallendorf" <h-kallendorf@tam.u.edu>
Date: 4/30/2012 9:19 AM
To: "'Gary Varner'" <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
CC: "'Moreiras, Alberto'" <moreiras@tam.u.edu>, "'Gary Varner'" <g-varner@tam.u.edu>

Gary, as we said at the GIC meeting, your students are more than welcome to take our courses with the understanding that instruction is in Spanish. They would also need to be able to write a seminar paper in Spanish at the Ph.D. level. Please note that HISP 665 is actually Studies in Spanish Literature. I would also recommend including HISP 630, Studies in Latin American Literature, although it would only be relevant for your purposes when it is taught as an early modern colonial course.

Hilaire

Hilaire Kallendorf, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Hispanic and Religious Studies

Director of Graduate Studies

MS 4238, Academic Bldg 204C
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-4238
(979) 458-0621
fax (979) 845-6421

From: Gary Varner [mailto:gary@philosophy.tamu.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 9:02 AM
To: Kallendorf, Hilaire
Cc: Moreiras, Alberto; Gary Varner
Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [HISP]

Hilaire -

I accidentally included a History course on the list of three courses below. Please disregard "HISP [HIST] 601, Colonial North America."

Thanks, -gv

On 4/30/2012 9:01 AM, Gary Varner wrote:
Hilaire -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for Hispanic Studies, and I'm copying your department head so that he is aware of this request that I'm making of you.

HISA, 2

As you know from the GIC meeting last week, the Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's GIC meeting, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following courses in your department:

- HISP 640 History of Ideas in the Hispanic World
- HISP 665 Studies in Hispanic Literature
- HISP 601 Colonial North America

These are the courses that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)
<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/>

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)
<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/>

HIST

Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [HIST]
From: "Bradford, James C" <jcbradford@neo.tamu.edu>
Date: 4/30/2012 3:55 PM
To: Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
CC: "Adam R. Seipp" <aseipp@neo.tamu.edu>, David Vaught <d-vaught@neo.tamu.edu>

Dear Professor Varner:

David Vaught, department head; Adam Seipp, incoming director of graduate studies; and I discussed your request.

HIST 628: Historiography is not an appropriate course for the program you describe.

The history department will welcome a small number of your students in HIST 601: Colonial North America and HIST 643: Reading Seminar in European History from the Renaissance to the French Revolution on a space available basis, but the department cannot guarantee the frequency with which each of the courses will be offered.

Sincerely,
Jim Bradford

James C. Bradford
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of History
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4236
Tel: Office: 979-845-7165
Home: 979-775-5448
Fax: 979-862-4314

From: "Gary Varner" <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
To: "James Bradford" <jcbradford@tam.u.edu>
Cc: "David Vaught" <d-vaught@neo.tamu.edu>, "Gary Varner" <g-varner@tam.u.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 9:20:12 AM
Subject: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [HIST]

James -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for History, and I'm copying your department head so that he is aware of this request that I'm making of you.

As you know from the GIC meeting last week, the Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's GIC meeting, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small

HIST, 2

number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following courses in your department:

HIST 601 Colonial North America
HIST 628 Historiography
HIST 643 European History from the Renaissance to the French Revolution

These are the courses that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)
<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/>

INTA

Subject: RE: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [INTA]
From: "Brown, Lisa M." <lbrown@bushschool.tamu.edu>
Date: 5/4/2012 12:45 PM
To: 'Gary Varner' <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
CC: Gary Varner <g-varner@tamu.edu>, "Jopling, Jenny" <jjopling@bushschool.tamu.edu>

Hi Gary,

Thank you for your inquiry. Unfortunately, INTA 627 has not been offered in a while, and it is in the process of being removed from our course listing.

Regards,
Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown
Assistant Director, Office of Extended Education
The Bush School of Government and Public Service
Texas A&M University
4220 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
Ph. (979) 862-8826
Fax (979) 862-3196
<http://bush.tamu.edu/certificate>
lisa@tamu.edu



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From: Gary Varner [mailto:gary@philosophy.tamu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:01 AM
To: Brown, Lisa M.
Cc: Gary Varner
Subject: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [INTA]

Lisa (if I may) -

I called the INTA office about this and was told that you should be my point of contact on this.

The Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's meeting of the Graduate Instruction Committee in the College of Liberal Arts, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background

INTA, 2

knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following course in your department:

INTA 627 The Great Books of World Politics

This is the course that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)
<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/>

LING

Subject: RE: Grad advisor for LING?
From: "Nelson, Claudia" <claudia_nelson@tamu.edu>
Date: 5/1/2012 10:29 AM
To: Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>

Hi, Gary,

Yes, always cross-listed.

Best,
Claudia

Claudia Nelson
Professor and Cornerstone Faculty Fellow
Interim Director of Graduate Studies
Department of English, Blocker 241C
TAMU 4227
College Station, TX 77843-4227
979-458-0377

From: Gary Varner [gary@philosophy.tamu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Nelson, Claudia
Subject: Re: Grad advisor for LING?

Thanks, Claudia. Yes, this is what I was writing about.

Do I understand correctly that 610 is always crosslisted as both ENGL and LING, or is the course sometimes taught as ENGL and sometimes as LING depending on content?

(And please excuse me if I've misunderstood something from your previous email.)

Thanks for your help with this, -gv

On 5/1/2012 10:18 AM, Nelson, Claudia wrote:

Dear Gary,

LING doesn't have a separate advising staff. If what you want is assurance that PHIL PhD students would be welcome in the LING as in the ENGL half of 610, ENGL can provide that. If you have questions about the content of the course in years when it isn't the Old English/Beowulf sequence, these would be best answered by whatever faculty member is assigned to teach the course that semester, possibly Larry Mitchell or Shari Kendall.

Best,
Claudia

Claudia Nelson
Professor and Cornerstone Faculty Fellow
Interim Director of Graduate Studies
Department of English, Blocker 241C
TAMU 4227
College Station, TX 77843-4227

LING, 2

979-458-0377

From: Gary Varner [gary@philosophy.tamu.edu<mailto:gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:10 AM
To: grad-program@tamuenglish.org<mailto:grad-program@tamuenglish.org>
Subject: Grad advisor for LING?

Can you please give me the contact information for the graduate advisor to your Linguistics Program, specifically?

Thanks,

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy<<http://philosophy.tamu.edu>><<http://philosophy.tamu.edu>>,
Texas A&M University
(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)
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Gary Varner
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MATH

Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [MATH]
From: Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
Date: 5/1/2012 11:09 AM
To: Emil Straube <head@math.tamu.edu>
CC: Gary Varner <g-varner@tamu.edu>

No, I was not. I'll pass that information on to our history of early modern people.

Thanks for the information, -gv

On 5/1/2012 10:34 AM, Emil Straube wrote:

Gary:

BTW, are you aware that this is an on-line course?

Emil

On 05/01/2012 09:40 AM, Gary Varner wrote:

Thanks, -gv

On 5/1/2012 9:39 AM, Emil Straube wrote:

Gary:

I have forwarded your message to Peter Howard, who is the Director of Graduate Studies in Math. We should be able to get back to you soon.

Best wishes,

Emil Straube

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University

PHYS

Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [PHYS]
From: "George R. Welch" <grw@tamu.edu>
Date: 5/1/2012 1:58 PM
To: Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
CC: Gary Varner <g-varner@tamu.edu>

Gary,

PHYS-659 (and PHYS-660) have not been taught in many years. They were introduced long ago by a professor who was running summer schools for high-school and junior-college teachers. (That is why the course description says "For physics teachers.") That professor retired some time ago. These courses are being removed from the catalog and course inventory.

Sorry,

--George

On 5/1/12 9:53 AM, Gary Varner wrote:

George -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Department Head in Physics.

The Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's meeting of the Graduate Instruction Committee in Liberal Arts, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following course in your department:

PHYS 659 The Evolution of Physics

This is the course that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

PHYS, 2

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner

Professor and Interim Head

Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University

(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)

<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/>

Subject: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [POLS]
From: Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
Date: 5/1/2012 9:48 AM
To: Michelle Taylor-Robinson <m-taylor11@pols.tamu.edu>
CC: Political Science <rogers@politics.tamu.edu>, Gary Varner <g-varner@tamu.edu>

no reply
yet

Michelle -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for , and I'm copying your department head so that she is aware of this request that I'm making of you.

As you know from the GIC meeting last week, the Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's GIC meeting, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following course in your department:

POLS 650 Normative Political Theory

These is the courses that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner
Professor and Interim Head
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(979) 845-5600, 845-0458 (FAX)
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POLS

Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [POLS 650 and 654]
From: "Michelle M. Taylor" <m-taylor11@pols.tamu.edu>
Date: 5/4/2012 12:11 PM
To: Gary Varner <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
CC: "James R. Rogers" <rogers@politics.tamu.edu>

Gary,

Political Science would be glad to have graduate students from Philosophy enroll in POLS 650 and POLS 654. We have checked with the faculty who have taught both of these seminars in recent years and there are no prerequisite or other impediments to a Philosophy graduate student taking either course. We do not offer POLS 650 every year, but most recently POLS 650 was taught in fall 2011, fall 2009 and fall 2007. POLS 654 was taught in summer and spring 2011, spring 2010, and spring 2009 so it does seem feasible to use both courses as an option for your students.

Misha

Michelle M. Taylor-Robinson
Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
Dept. of Political Science
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4348
(979) 845-2525
e-mail: m-taylor11@pols.tamu.edu

----- Original Message -----

From: "Gary Varner" <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu>
To: "Michelle M. Taylor" <m-taylor11@pols.tamu.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 4, 2012 7:21:27 AM
Subject: Re: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [POLS]

Michelle -

As the early modern folks reviewed the proposal in light of response from the various other departments, they want to add 654, Theories of Political Legitimacy, Order and Obligation (although that looks to me like a course that varies enough that our students' advisers would want to sign off on particular offerings of it for our students' purposes).

I don't know if you'd be able to contact faculty who have taught that recently by next Wednesday (the proposal goes before the Liberal Arts Council that afternoon).

Thanks for your help with this.

-gv

On 5/4/2012 6:08 AM, Michelle M. Taylor wrote:

Gary,

POLS, 2

Political Science would be glad to have graduate students from Philosophy enroll in POLS 650. We have checked with the faculty who have taught the seminar in recent years and there are no prerequisite or other impediments to a Philosophy graduate student taking the course. We do not offer this seminar every year, but most recently it was taught in fall 2011, fall 2009 and fall 2007, so it does seem feasible to use this course as an option for your students.

Misha

Michelle M. Taylor-Robinson
Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
Dept. of Political Science
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4348
(979) 845-2525
e-mail: m-taylor11@pols.tamu.edu ----- Original Message -----

From: "Gary Varner" <gary@philosophy.tamu.edu> To: "Michelle Taylor-Robinson" <m-taylor11@pols.tamu.edu> Cc: "Political Science" <rogers@politics.tamu.edu> , "Gary Varner" <g-varner@tamu.edu> Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2012 7:48:50 AM
Subject: Support for PHIL PhD program proposal [POLS]

Michelle -

I'm writing you in your capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for , and I'm copying your department head so that she is aware of this request that I'm making of you.

As you know from the GIC meeting last week, the Philosophy Department is proposing to add an option for its PhD students who are specializing in the history of early modern philosophy and this option involves taking a set of courses in several different academic disciplines that contextualize philosophical issues related to the early modern period. At last week's GIC meeting, the proposal was approved contingent upon Philosophy obtaining notes from the departments on the list of suggested classes indicating both that they would welcome a small number of Philosophy students into the classes listed from their departments and any issues they foresaw such as the classes not being offered frequently enough to be of help to Philosophy students, that there might be background knowledge assumed that our students would lack, etc.; or if they had other courses to suggest for inclusion on the list.

Accordingly, I'm writing to ask if your department would welcome some of these students taking the following course in your department:

POLS 650 Normative Political Theory

These is the courses that the early modern specialists in our department (Steve Daniel and Mike LeBuffe) identified as valuable to various students in the early modern track, and that is why they are listed in appendix #4 of the attached copy of the proposal.

POLS, 3

Please let me know if you have any related concerns.

As the proposal will be considered by the Liberal Arts Council on Wednesday, May 9, it would be helpful to receive your reply this week if possible.

Thank you,

--

Gary Varner
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