FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School______PRS__________________Date______9/20/2011__________
Course No. or level_201 __Title_____Introduction to Philosophy___________________
Semester hours__3_____Clock hours:         Lecture___________Laboratory__________
Prerequisites_____________________________________________________________
Enrollment expectation______35_____________
Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)
    modification______PRS 201________________
    (proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)
    substitute
    (The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)
    alternate___________________________
    (The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description____Matthew Turner__________________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature___________________________________
Provost's Signature________________________________________________________
Date of Implementation__________Fall 2012__________________________________
Date of School/Department approval_________09/20/2011_______________________

Catalog description:
Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
2. What should the course do for the student? Offer a comprehensive introduction fundamental issues in the western tradition of philosophy

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): See attached syllabus

Course Content: See attached syllabus

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
Intro to Philosophy
Philosophy 201
M/W/F 10.30 – 11.30, CEMC 241

Course Information:
Instructor: Matthew Turner
Office: FH 234
Office Hours: 1.30 – 3.00 pm Monday; 2.00 – 3.00 pm Tuesday; and by appointment
Email: mwturner@fmarion.edu
Ph.: 661-4695

Course Description:
All of us have philosophical beliefs, but we do not often recognize these beliefs as philosophical. One reason that we are not aware of this fact is that many of these beliefs lie at the very foundations of our own thinking, such that their truth seems obvious to us. One of the purposes of philosophy is to examine the justification that we have for some of these foundational beliefs. As such, it is not merely an exercise in stating what we believe, but an investigation and evaluation of the grounds we have for believing what we do. This course is an introduction into some of the fundamental issues in philosophical thinking, as well as an inquiry into the nature of philosophical thinking itself.

Textbooks:
Plato. Five Dialogues, 2d ed. Hackett, 2002

Evaluation:
2 Exams (25% Each)
4 Short Writing Assignments (12.5% each)

About grading:
My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.

Late Assignments:
Assignments are due at the beginning of class. For each calendar day (note: not business day) that an assignment is late, I will deduct 5 points from the overall grade of the assignment.

Academic Honesty:
I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook (pp. 134-136) for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.
Cell Phones & Technology:

You don’t need a computer or phone in the class. Please don’t use them while in class. Use of such devices is a distraction to the class as a whole. Rest assured, the world will still be there after class is over.

Disability Services:

If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation. If you are entitled to extra time for your examination, you must notify me one week in advance of the scheduled exam.

Exams:

Exams will be taken in class. A blue book is required for the exams. Prior to the date of the exam, each of you must bring to me a blank blue book. These books will then be distributed on the day of the exam. If you do not bring me a blue book prior to the date of the exam, then you may not take the exam.

Attendance Policy:

I expect you to come to class regularly. I have learned from experience that students who come to class infrequently perform less well on assignments and exams. This course is not about simply repeating back what you find in the textbooks. In fact, it is usually difficult to glean what is important in these texts on a cursory reading. So, it is in your best interest to come to class.

Writing Assignments:

The writing assignments will follow a specific format. I will discuss the format in more detail as the first one approaches, but in general, you will be asked to submit a short argument defending a thesis in outline form to me. I will then develop two or three objections to your thesis, which you must then answer. Both parts must be completed in order for you to earn a grade on the assignment.

Writing assignments may be submitted either on paper (typed, of course), or as an email attachment. Do not send inline text; I will not grade it. If you don’t know how to send a document as an email attachment, I would advise learning.

I will hold off on giving specific assignment due dates, because I want to be sure to cover a certain amount of material before assigning them. You will complete two before the midterm, and two after the midterm.

Exam Schedule:

Midterm: Friday, October 7, in class
Final: Wednesday, December 7, 3.00 – 5.00
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School______PRS__________________Date______9/20/2011__________

Course No. or level_203__Title_____Symbolic Logic___________________

Semester hours__3_____Clock hours: Lecture: Laboratory:______

Prerequisites_____________________________________________________________

Enrollment expectation______35_____________

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

modification______PRS 203________________
(proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)

substitute__________________________
(The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)

alternate___________________________
(The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description____Matthew Turner__________________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature___________________________________

Provost’s Signature________________________________________________________

Date of Implementation__________Fall 2012__________________________________

Date of School/Department approval__________09/20/2011______________________

Catalog description:

Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
2. What should the course do for the student? This course will teach students the basics of symbolic logic, up to first-order logic.

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): See attached syllabus

Course Content: See attached syllabus

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
Introduction to Logic  
T / R 9.55 – 11.10  
FH 213C  

Course Information:  

Instructor: Matthew Turner  
Office: FH 234  
Office Hours: Monday, 2.00 – 3.00 pm, Tuesday, 2.00 – 3.00 pm, and by appointment  
Email: mwturner@fmarion.edu  
Phone: 661-4695  

Course Description:  

This course is an introduction in formal symbolic logic. We will study the structure of arguments, semantic and syntactic tests for validity of arguments, and conclude with quantificational logic.  

Textbooks (all required):  


There is also important course material on the Blackboard website. Please go to http://blackboard9.fmarion.edu.  

Evaluation:  

4 Exams (22.5% each)  
Attendance/Participation (10%)  

About grading:  

My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.  

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.  

Academic Honesty:  

I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.  

Disability Services:  

If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation. If you are entitled to extra time for your examination, you must notify me one week in advance of the scheduled exam.
Cell Phones & Technology:

You don’t need a computer or phone in the class. Please don’t use them while in class. Use of such devices is a distraction to the class as a whole. Rest assured, the world will still be there after class is over.

Note on Homework Assignments:

Here’s a piece of advice about homework. The exercises may often seem tedious, redundant, and boring. This thought is misguided. The purpose of homework is not to give you busywork, but to give you practice for the exam. You should do the homework until you get it right. You don’t learn to shoot 3-point shots in basketball by standing under the hoop complaining how far it is from the 3-point line to the basket. Past experience has proven to me that students who do less homework perform less well on exams, and since the exams constitute an enormous portion of your grade, it behooves you to prepare for them the best that you can, i.e. do the homework.

Tentative Schedule of the Class:

Part I – Chapters 1 & 6 [2]

Exam #1: Tuesday, September 20

Part II – Chapter 7 [3]

Exam #2: Thursday, October 13 (7.1 – 7.4)
Exam #3: Thursday, November 10 (7.5 – 7.6)

Part III – Chapter 8 [4]

Exam #4: Final Exam: Thursday, December 8, 3.00 – 5.00 pm
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School _______ PRS __________ Date ______ 9/20/2011 _________

Course No. or level_301 ___ Title____ Ancient Philosophy__________________

Semester hours __3 ______ Clock hours: Lecture ___________ Laboratory__________

Prerequisites_____________________________________________________________

Enrollment expectation______25________________

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

modification____ PRS 301________________
(proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)

substitute ____________________________
(The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)

alternate______________________________
(The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description____Matthew Turner________________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature___________________________________

Provost's Signature________________________________________________________

Date of Implementation________Fall 2012_____________________________________

Date of School/Department approval_________09/20/2011________________________

Catalog description:

Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education

2. What should the course do for the student? This course will provide students knowledge of the central thought of Plato and Aristotle, as well as the intellectual climate in which they flourished

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): See attached syllabus

Course Content: See attached syllabus

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
Ancient Philosophy
Philosophy 301
MWF 11.30 – 12.20

Course Information:
Instructor: Matthew Turner
Office: FH 234
Office Hours: 2.00 – 3.00 pm Monday; 2.30 – 3.30 pm Tuesday; and by appointment
Email: mwturner@fmarion.edu
Ph.: 661-4695

Course Description:
Philosophy as we know it today, was born in the ancient Greek world. In fact, the early 20th century philosophy A.N. Whitehead once said that all of Western philosophy was simply a collection of footnotes to Plato. While Whitehead was perhaps overstating it, it does remain true that the problems the ancient Greeks addressed remain with us today as puzzles about some of life’s deepest questions: What do we know? What is real? How do we ensure that we are living the good life? This course will give you an introduction to these ancient philosophers. We will explore how they understood the world (for there are significant differences in their worldview from ours), as well as explore their different solutions to philosophical problems. In particular we will be concerned with ancient metaphysical theories (theories about reality and being), epistemology (theory of knowledge, and in particular the role that philosophy plays in acquiring knowledge, and ethics (how to live, and what kind of society is the best).

Textbooks:
(all required)


Evaluation:
2 Exams (25% Each)
4 Short Writing Assignments (12.5% each)

About grading:
My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.

Academic Honesty:
I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook (pp. 134-136) for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.

Disability Services:
If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation.

Exams:
Bring a blue book for exams.

Attendance Policy:

I expect you to come to class regularly. I do not have a policy that states that a certain number of absences results in immediate failure. However, I have learned from experience that students who come to class infrequently perform less well on assignments and exams. Therefore, it is in your best interest to come to class.

Tentative Schedule of Assignments:

I won’t give out a distinct schedule of readings, as we will go through them at the pace that suits us best. But in the interest of providing some structure to the course, we’ll read the texts in the following order:

Selections from the Presocratics
   The Milesians
   Heraclitus
   Parmenides
   The Pluralists
   Atomism
   The Sophists

Plato
   Apology
   Gorgias
   Meno
   Symposium
   Republic

Aristotle
   Physics
   De Anima
   Metaphysics
   Nicomachean Ethics
   (We will use the Lear text throughout the Aristotle section)

Hellenistic Philosophy
   Selections TBD.

The Weston text will be used intermittently throughout the course.

Writing Assignments Due:

#1: Monday, February 2
#2: Monday, February 23
#3: Monday, April 6
#4: Monday, April 27

Exam Schedule:

Midterm: Wednesday, March 4
Final: Friday, May 1, 11.45 – 1.45 am
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School_______PRS__________________Date______9/20/2011__________

Course No. or level_302__Title_____Modern Philosophy_____________________

Semester hours__3_____Clock hours: Lecture___________Laboratory__________

Prerequisites_____________________________________________________________

Enrollment expectation______25_____________

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

modification_______PRS 302________________
(proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)

substitute__________________________
(The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)

alternate_________________________
(The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description____Matthew Turner________________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature___________________________________

Provost's Signature________________________________________________________

Date of Implementation______________Fall 2012______________________________

Date of School/Department approval______09/20/2011___________________________

Catalog description:

Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
2. What should the course do for the student? This course will provide students knowledge of the central thought of Empiricist and Rationalist traditions in the 17th and 18th century.

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): See attached syllabus

Course Content: See attached syllabus

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
History of Modern Philosophy (a.k.a. Philosophy in the Modern Age)
Philosophy 302
M/W/F LNB 205

Course Information:
Instructor: Matthew Turner
Office: FH 234
Office Hours: 1.30 – 3.00 pm Monday; 2.00 – 3.00 pm Tuesday; and by appointment
Email: mwturner@fmarrion.edu
Ph.: 661-4695

Course Description:

Although the course is entitled “Modern Philosophy”, the name is somewhat misleading. Specifically, when philosophers refer to this era of philosophy, they are speaking about the time from the end of the Renaissance up through the Age of Reason, or the Enlightenment. The reason that philosophers speak of this era in this manner is because the philosophical work of these centuries laid the foundation for much subsequent philosophy. This period in intellectual history saw the rise of modern science – best captured in figures like Galileo, Newton, and Kepler – as well as modern religion, namely the Protestant Reformation and subsequent Catholic Counter-Reformation. With this new science, humans were forced to understand themselves and their place in the world differently that they did in the medieval and ancient eras. The philosophy of this time reflects a working out of many of these problems. In particular, philosophers were concerned with such fundamental questions as the nature of our knowledge, the nature of reality, the nature of the self, the question over whether we have free will, the nature and existence of God, and the relationship between God and the natural world, that is the world as it was being described by science. This semester we will study six (if we have time, seven) of the most influential philosophers of this period. Following this course, you will not only have an understanding of the issues that divided philosophers of the day from each other and their own intellectual heritage, but you will also be ready to tackle one of the greatest philosophers of the Western world, Immanuel Kant.

Textbook:


Evaluation:

2 Exams (25% Each)
Papers (50% total) – Either:
   a.) 2 medium sized papers (one due before the midterm, one on the last day of class)
   b.) 1 longer research paper (due on the last day of class)

About grading:

My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.

Academic Honesty:
I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook (pp. 134-136) for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.

Disability Services:

If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation.

Cell Phones & Technology:

You don’t need a computer or phone in the class. Please don’t use them while in class. Use of such devices is a distraction to the class as a whole. Rest assured, the world will still be there after class is over.

Exams:

Bring a blue book for exams.

Attendance Policy:

I expect you to come to class regularly. I have learned from experience that students who come to class infrequently perform less well on assignments and exams. Therefore, it is in your best interest to come to class.

Tentative Schedule of Assignments:

I won’t give out a distinct schedule of readings, as we will go through them at the pace that suits us best. But in the interest of providing some structure to the course, we’ll read the texts in roughly the following order:

Descartes, Meditations
Spinoza, Ethics
Leibniz, Discourse on Metaphysics, Primary Truths, Monadology
Locke, Essay Concerning Human Understanding
Berkeley, Three Dialogues, Principles of Human Knowledge
Hume, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding, A Treatise on Human Nature, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion

We will read a little bit of Immanuel Kant toward the end of the semester, time permitting.

Exam Schedule:

Midterm: Friday, October 7
Final: Friday, December 9, 11.45 am
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School _____ PRS ___________ Date _____ 9/20/2011 __________

Course No. or level_305__Title_____Existentialism___________________

Semester hours__3_____Clock hours: Lecture___________Laboratory__________

Prerequisites_____________________________________________________________

Enrollment expectation______25_____________

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

modification____ PRS 305_________________
(proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)

substitute__________________________
(The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)

alternate___________________________
(The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description____Matthew Turner__________________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature___________________________________

Provost’s Signature________________________________________________________

Date of Implementation_____Fall 2012________________________________________

Date of School/Department approval____09/20/2011___________________________

Catalog description:

Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
2. What should the course do for the student? This course will provide students knowledge of the Existentialist tradition in philosophy and literature.

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): See attached syllabus

Course Content: See attached syllabus

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
Existentialism
Syllabus
Prof. Matthew Turner
Office: 234 FH
Email: mwturner@fmarion.edu
Phone: 661-4695
Office Hours: Monday 1-2 pm, Tuesday 1-2 pm

Course Description:

Suppose, for a moment, that life has no meaning. What should we do with ourselves? What is the point of engaging in any sort of activity or project, for example, a relationship, an education, or a career? If there isn’t any point or purpose to these projects, then why should we waste so much energy in pursuing them? Although we may speculate about what happens to us after we die, no one really knows what happens. And if death is the ultimate end, then our lives appear to be just “a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

But many of us will claim, however, that there is meaning and purpose to these projects – they do have value.

But what gives them their value? According to the existentialist, there are many traditional sources of value for us: family, religion, country, and culture. Yet many of these sources of value are arbitrary – they are imposed on us, merely by virtue of the fact that we happened to be born into a community that holds those values. So what makes these values the ones to hold? Existentialists argue that the real values one ought to hold cannot be imposed from outside, but rather must be chosen by us. A problem then arises: if value must be determined by each of us individually, and external sources of value are suspect, what is there to guide us in deciding what to do with ourselves? It is as if we are told to construct a machine that has a function without being told what that function is or given the material necessary to construct it. The goal of the existentialists is to provide us with a blueprint for constructing our own set of values and thereby giving our own lives significance and meaning. By focusing on the experience of the existing individual, rather than abstracting away from that individual, existentialists offer a way of understanding our own lives and what we should do with them. Although at times, the existentialists appear to portray a world that is cold, harsh, and gloomy, ultimately existentialism is a philosophy of affirmation. In particular we will address perennial philosophical questions concerning God’s existence, human freedom, the problem of evil, and what kind of morality we ought to follow.

The course will take an interdisciplinary approach. Due to the personal nature of existentialism, there is no one method of communication that completely represents the view. We will read fictional works and philosophy texts, as well as watch some films. Reading will include works from Kafka, Dostoevsky, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Camus, Sartre, as well as shorter selections from other existentialist writers.

Texts:


Evaluation:

2 Exams (15% each)
3 Papers (4-6 pages each) (20% Each)
Attendance/Participation (10%)

About grading:

My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.

Academic Honesty:

I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook (pp. 132-134) for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.

Disability Services:

If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation.

Exams:

Bring a blue book for exams.

Attendance Policy:

I expect you to come to class regularly. I do not have a policy that states that a certain number of absences results in immediate failure. However, I have learned from experience that students who come to class infrequently perform less well on assignments and exams. Therefore, it is in your best interest to come to class.

22 August       Introduction to Existentialism – Philosophical Background
27 August       Kierkegaard
29 August       Kierkegaard
3 September     Kierkegaard
5 September     Kierkegaard
10 September    Bergman: The Seventh Seal
12 September    Dostoevsky
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<td>17 September</td>
<td>Dostoevsky</td>
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<td>1 October</td>
<td>Welles: <em>The Trial</em></td>
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<td>3 October</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>10 October</td>
<td>Nietzsche: <em>Zarathustra</em></td>
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<td>31 October</td>
<td>Hesse &amp; Camus</td>
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<td>5 November</td>
<td>Fellini: <em>8 ½</em></td>
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Catalog description:

Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
         2. What should the course do for the student? This course will provide students knowledge
            of the main theoretical positions in philosophical ethics, and then provide opportunities to
            apply those theories to real ethical issues

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic-multimedia): See attached syllabus

Course Content: See attached syllabus
Ethics
Philosophy 306
T/Th 11.20 am – 12.35 pm

Course Information:

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Turner
Office: FH 234
Office Hours:
Email: mwturner@fmarion.edu
Phone: 661-4695

Course Description:

In the context of philosophy, ethics is the area that studies rational approaches to questions of value. While most of us believe that there is a difference between right and wrong actions, or good and bad morals, far fewer of us can cogently spell out just what constitutes that difference. Further, ethical questions are bound – for better or worse – to deep seated emotional, religious, spiritual, traditional and other concerns. Our task in this course will be to better understand the foundations of various positions on ethical issues, all in an effort to probe the theoretical foundations of our own approach to judging the morally right and wrong. We will begin by considering the major theoretical approaches to ethics, before turning directly to particular issues in practical ethics.

Textbook:
(required)


There is also important course material on the Blackboard website. Please go to http://blackboard9.fmarion.edu.

Evaluation:

2 Exams (20% Each)
5 Short Writing Assignments (10% each)
Attendance/Participation (10%)

About grading:

My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.

Academic Honesty:

I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook (pp. 134-136) for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.

Disability Services:
If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation.

**Exams:**

Bring a blue book for exams.

**Attendance Policy:**

I expect you to come to class regularly. I do not have a policy that states that a certain number of absences results in immediate failure. However, I have learned from experience that students who come to class infrequently perform less well on assignments and exams. Therefore, it is in your best interest to come to class.

**Cell Phones:**

Put all cell phones away during class time. If I see you with a cell phone out during class, I will mark you absent for the day.

**Schedule:**

Our exact schedule of readings will depend on the pace of the class, but we will cover the following material in approximately this order (titles in square brackets will be added if I feel we have enough time):

**Historical Sources**

Plato, *Euthyphro*, pp. 5 – 16
Butler, *Fifteen Sermons*, pp. 228 – 243
Kant, *A Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 280 – 318
Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, pp. 319 -327
Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp. 327 – 361
[Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, pp. 397 – 405]
[Sartre, *Existentialism is a Humanism*, pp. 406 – 412]

**Modern Ethical Theory**

[Chapters 16 – 43 represent important developments in 20th century ethical thinking. When we get closer, I will decide if the class would be into pursuing these topics, given our time and your interests.]

**Contemporary Moral Problems**

I would like to cover the following chapters: 44 – 51. There are later chapters that deal with further particular moral issues. We can include them as time and interest allow.

**Writing Assignments Due:**
#1: Thursday, September 9
#2: Thursday, September 30
#3: Thursday, October 28
#4: Thursday, November 11
#5: Monday, December 6

**Exam Schedule:**

Midterm: Thursday, October 7
Final: Friday, December 10, 3.00 – 5.00 pm
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School: PRS  
Date: 9/20/2011  
Course No. or level: 312  
Title: Medieval Philosophy  
Semester hours: 3  
Clock hours:  
Lecture:  
Laboratory:  
Prerequisites:  
Enrollment expectation: 25  
Indicate any course for which this course is a (an) modification: PRS 312  
(proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)  
substitute:  
(The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)  
alternate:  
(The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)  
Name of person preparing course description: Matthew Turner  
Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature:  
Provost's Signature:  
Date of Implementation: Fall 2012  
Date of School/Department approval: 09/20/2011  
Catalog description:

Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education  
2. What should the course do for the student? This course will provide students a background in the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish philosophers during the time from Augustine to the late middle ages.  

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion  
Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): Philosophy in the Middle Ages, 3rd ed., Hackett.  
Course Content: Discussions of Augustine, Aquinas, ibn-Sina, ibn-Rushd, Maimonides, et al
When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost.

9/03

Medieval Philosophy
Philosophy 312
M/W/F 10.30 – 11.30, CEMC 241

Course Information:
Instructor: Matthew Turner
Office: FH 234
Office Hours: 1.30 – 3.00 pm Monday; 2.00 – 3.00 pm Tuesday; and by appointment
Email: mwturner@fmarion.edu
Ph.: 661-4695

Course Description:
The medieval period in European history represents a significant transition in the arc of Western thought. As the power of Rome, symbol of the ancient world, declined, the new power of Christianity spread throughout the Northern Mediterranean portion of the Empire, while Islam began to flourish in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Western history has traditionally focused on the rise of the papacy and its dominance in Europe throughout the middle ages, and histories of philosophy have tended to do the same – focusing primarily on Christian, Catholic philosophy. This is not entirely accurate, however, as much of the West’s intellectual development was dependent on contact with thinkers from the Muslim as well as with the Judaic world. This course will be a survey of some of the most important thinkers of these traditions, with an emphasis on how the shared idea of monotheism is developed in different ways by different cultures.

Textbooks:

Hyman, Walsh, and Williams. Philosophy in the Middle Ages, 3rd ed. Hackett 2010

Evaluation:

2 Exams (25% Each)
4 Short Writing Assignments (12.5% each)

About grading:

My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.

Late Assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. For each calendar day (note: not business day) that an assignment is late, I will deduct 5 points from the overall grade of the assignment.

Academic Honesty:

I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook (pp. 134-136) for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.

Cell Phones & Technology:
You don’t need a computer or phone in the class. Please don’t use them while in class. Use of such devices is a distraction to the class as a whole. Rest assured, the world will still be there after class is over.

**Disability Services:**

If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation. If you are entitled to extra time for your examination, you must notify me one week in advance of the scheduled exam.

**Exams:**

Exams will be taken in class. A blue book is required for the exams. Prior to the date of the exam, each of you must bring to me a blank blue book. These books will then be distributed on the day of the exam. If you do not bring me a blue book prior to the date of the exam, then you may not take the exam.

**Attendance Policy:**

I expect you to come to class regularly. I have learned from experience that students who come to class infrequently perform less well on assignments and exams. This course is not about simply repeating back what you find in the textbooks. In fact, it is usually difficult to glean what is important in these texts on a cursory reading. So, it is in your best interest to come to class.

**Writing Assignments:**

The writing assignments will follow a specific format. I will discuss the format in more detail as the first one approaches, but in general, you will be asked to submit a short argument defending a thesis in outline form to me. I will then develop two or three objections to your thesis, which you must then answer. Both parts must be completed in order for you to earn a grade on the assignment.

Writing assignments may be submitted either on paper (typed, of course), or as an email attachment. Do not send inline text; I will not grade it. If you don’t know how to send a document as an email attachment, I would advise learning.

I will hold off on giving specific assignment due dates, because I want to be sure to cover a certain amount of material before assigning them. You will complete two before the midterm, and two after the midterm.

**Reading Schedule:**

I’m not going to give a full schedule of readings in advance, but we will follow the order of readings below:

**Augustine:**
- On the free choice of the will
- Confessions (selections)
- City of God (selections)

**Boethius:**
- On the consolations of philosophy

**Anselm:**
- Proslogion

**Ibn Sina:**
- Selections on “Metaphysics” and “Soul”
al-Ghazali:
   The Incoherence of the Philosophers, On the Eternity of the World
   The Incoherence of the Philosophers, Concerning the Natural Sciences

Ibn-Rusd
   All Selections

Maimonides:
   Guide to the perplexed

Aquinas:
   Multiple selections. TBD based on class interest

If there is time left over, we will look at selections from Duns Scotus and Buridan.

Exam Schedule:

Midterm: Friday, October 7, in class
Final: Wednesday, December 7, 3.00 – 5.00
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School ______ PRS ___________ Date ______ 9/20/2011 __________

Course No. or level _397__ Title__ Special Topics ___________________

Semester hours __3____ Clock hours: Lecture_________ Laboratory__________

Prerequisites_____________________________________________________________

Enrollment expectation_____25_____________

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

   modification____ PRS 397________________
   (proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)

   substitute__________________________
   (The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)

   alternate____________________________
   (The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description____Matthew Turner__________________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature___________________________________

Provost's Signature________________________________________________________

Date of Implementation ____________ Fall 2012 __________________________

Date of School/Department approval______09/20/2011__________________________

Catalog description:

Purpose:  
   1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
   2. What should the course do for the student? As per special topic

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): Various

Course Content: Various

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School ______ PRS ____________ Date ______ 9/20/2011 __________

Course No. or level _401__ Title __Philosophy of Religion ______________________

Semester hours __3____ Clock hours: Lecture ___________ Laboratory ___________

Prerequisites __________________________________________________________________

Enrollment expectation ______ 25 ____________

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

    modification____ PRS 401 ____________________
    (proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)

    substitute __________________________
    (The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)

    alternate ____________________________
    (The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description ____ Matthew Turner____________________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature _______________________________________

Provost's Signature ___________________________________________________________

Date of Implementation ________ Fall 2012 ________________________________

Date of School/Department approval ______ 09/20/2011 __________________________

Catalog description:

Purpose:  1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
          2. What should the course do for the student?

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): Various

Course Content: N/A; only changing when course is listed as being taught (e.g. ‘AF’ -> no specific date)

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School ______ PRS ______ Date ______ 9/20/2011 ______

Course No. or level 402 Title Contemporary Philosophy

Semester hours 3 Clock hours: Lecture ______ Laboratory ______

Prerequisites

Enrollment expectation 25

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

modification ______ PRS 402 __________________________
(proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)

substitute
(The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)

alternate __________________________
(The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description ______ Matthew Turner ______________

Department Chairperson’s/Dean’s Signature ________________________________

Provost’s Signature ________________________________

Date of Implementation ______ Fall 2012 ________________________________

Date of School/Department approval ______ 09/20/2011 ________________________________

Catalog description:

Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education

2. What should the course do for the student?

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion

Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic/multimedia): Various

Course Content: N/A; only changing when course is listed as being taught (e.g. ‘AF’ -> no specific date)

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE

Department/School_______PRS__________________Date______9/20/2011__________
Course No. or level_307__Title_____Asian Philosophy______________________________
Semester hours__3_____Clock hours: Lecture___________Laboratory__________
Prerequisites_____________________________________________________________
Enrollment expectation______25_____________

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an) modification_______________________
(proposed change in course title, course description, course content or method of instruction)
substitute________________________
(The proposed new course replaces a deleted course as a General Education or program requirement.)
alternate___________________________
(The proposed new course can be taken as an alternate to an existing course.)

Name of person preparing course description____Matthew Turner__________________
Department Chairperson’s/Dean's Signature___________________________________
Provost's Signature________________________________________________________
Date of Implementation______________________Fall 2012______________________
Date of School/Department approval____________09/20/2011____________________

Catalog description:
Purpose: 1. For Whom (generally?) PRS Minor/Collateral students, General Education
2. What should the course do for the student? Offer a comprehensive introduction to Asian Traditions of Philosophy

Teaching method planned: Lecture/Discussion
Textbook and/or materials planned (including electronic-multimedia): See attached syllabus
Course Content: See attached syllabus

When completed, forward to the Office of the Provost. 9/03
Asian Philosophy
Philosophy 307
M / W / F 10.30 – 11.20: FH 114B

Course Information:
Instructor: Matthew Turner
Office: FH 234
Office Hours: 2.00 – 3.00 pm Monday; 2.00 – 3.00 pm Tuesday; and by appointment
Email: mwturner@fmarion.edu
Ph.: 661-4695

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the central philosophical traditions in South and East Asia. We will cover the rise of philosophy in India, looking at the main philosophical systems as they grew out of the Vedic tradition. We will then look at the rise of Buddhist philosophy, both as its own school of thought, as well as its reaction to orthodox Indian philosophy. We will conclude with the two central schools of thought in the Chinese tradition: Confucianism and Taoism.

Textbooks:

Evaluation:

2 Exams (25% Each)
2 5-7 page papers (25% each)

About grading:

My scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, 59 and lower = F.

‘C’ represents work that is average. I give this grade to work that completes the course requirements. ‘A’s’ and ‘B’s’ are reserved for work that demonstrates more effort, depth, and polish. I am happy to work with you to get the grade that you want. Keep in mind that your grade is a function of your work.

Late Assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. For each calendar day (note: not business day) that an assignment is late, I will deduct 5 points from the overall grade of the assignment.

Academic Honesty:

I have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment, with no possibility of making it up, as well as the appropriate administrative documentation. Multiple instances will result in failure for the course. Please refer to the student handbook (pp. 134-136) for more specific information about Francis Marion’s policy regarding academic honesty.

Disability Services:
If you are affected by the impact of a disability, and require an accommodation, please feel free to come and talk to me in private to discuss your situation.

**Exams:**

Exams will be taken in class. A blue book is required for the exams. Prior to the date of the exam, each of you must bring to me a blank blue book. These books will then be distributed on the day of the exam. If you do not bring me a blue book prior to the date of the exam, then you may not take the exam.

**Attendance Policy:**

I expect you to come to class regularly. I have learned from experience that students who come to class infrequently perform less well on assignments and exams. This course is not about simply repeating back what you find in the textbooks. In fact, it is usually difficult to glean what is important in these texts on a cursory reading. So, it is in your best interest to come to class.

**Writing Assignments:**

I will hold off on giving specific assignment due dates, because I want to be sure to cover a certain amount of material before assigning them. You will complete one before the midterm, and one after the midterm.

**Exam Schedule:**

Midterm:  Friday, March 11, in class  
Final: TBD