

To: School of Liberal Arts Graduate Curriculum Committee
IUPUI
From: Michael B. Burke, Chair
Department of Philosophy
IUPUI
Date: March 1, 2004
Re: Revision of Doctoral Minor

The philosophy department wishes to revise the requirements for its doctoral minor.

The existing requirements include the following:

13 credits of graduate courses in philosophy, including three credits in the core course, P500, six credits in philosophical area and/or applied courses, and four credits in the culminating seminar, P730

Those requirements are to be replaced by the following:

12 credits of graduate courses in philosophy, including six credits in courses selected from the Philosophy Core

The *Philosophy Core*, in which students in our new master's program also must earn six credits, consists of these six 3-credit courses: P525 Topics in the History of Philosophy; P540 Contemporary Ethical Theories; P543 Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy; P553 Philosophy of Science; P560 Metaphysics; and P562 Theory of Knowledge.

The reasons for the proposed changes are as follows:

(1) Since all of our graduate courses except P730 are 3-credit courses, since we do not plan to offer P730 (for the reason indicated below), and since many or most Ph.D. minors require only 12 credits, we propose to reduce the number of credits required from 13 to 12.

(2) In our existing requirements, the role of P500, Philosophy Pro-Seminar, is to ensure that minors learn about central areas within philosophy and not select courses entirely within peripheral areas. Since we now have master's students, for whom P500 would be too sketchy, and since it's not practical for us to offer P500 for minors only, we propose for minors the same core requirement applicable to our master's students: two courses selected from the Philosophy Core.

(3) P730, Seminar: Contemporary Philosophy, is devoted to the writings of a twentieth-century philosopher. (Its title is somewhat odd with its description.) It was made a requirement for minors at a time when the department had more members interested in teaching it – and prior to the department's commitment to a master's program with tracks in bioethics and American philosophy. There are no current plans to offer P730. Anyway, we are proposing to increase the core requirement for minors from one course to two, and want the other two courses required of minors to be open electives.