

TO: University Senate Curriculum Committee

FROM: Dan Boone (WMB)

DATE: October 22, 1987

SUBJECT: Course Title and Course Number Changes.

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Department requests acceptance of the following title and number changes.

- 1. Change PH 405 Human Rights: Their Basis and Boundaries to PH 405 Justice and Human Rights.
- 2. Change PH 311 Eastern Philosophy to RS 311 Eastern Philosophy.

The above changes do not reflect any changes in course content or catalog description.

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA • INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA 15705

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies • 451 John Sutton Hall • 412-357-2310

December 3, 1987

TO: Dr. Harold Sommer, Chairperson  
Senate Curriculum Committee

FROM: Sharon Montgomery, Chairperson  
Philosophy & Religious Studies Department

RE: Prefix Change for PH 311, Eastern Philosophy To RS 311

*Sharon Montgomery*

As I understand it, your concern is that students may not realize that Eastern Philosophy is inextricably intertwined with Eastern Religion and that the predominant emphasis is religious. Further, you would like a clarification regarding the difference between the Eastern Philosophy course and RS 370, Religions of China and Japan. I hope that you find my response adequate. Should you have any further concern, I would appreciate your contacting me.

I. Potential Student Confusion

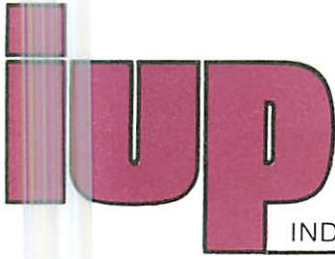
The existence of this course in our curriculum predates by far our present distinction between PH and RS courses. It has always been taught by Dr. Benjamin Chan (Religious Studies) and has always been viewed by us as a Religious Studies course. Its original title was "Oriental Religio-Philosophic Thought" and its original description characterized its subject matter as "religious philosophies". We thought the title awkward--really a barbarism--and the "religious" qualification redundant. We wanted a more elegant title and, especially, one which would attract students. Because "Eastern Philosophy" is a commonly used title for this subject matter and because students interested in this subject matter have usually heard about or read about it as "Eastern Philosophy," we settled on that title.

However, we appreciate your concern and we are most amenable to a trivial title change and a trivial description change speaking to the issue. We emphasize that the changes are academically trivial because course content is, and will be, the same as it always was.

II. Trivial Title/Description Change Suggestion

- a. PH 311 Eastern Philosophy to: RS 311 Eastern Religious And Philosophical Thought.
- b. Present Description:  
An examination and critique of the philosophies which have shaped Eastern worldviews and ways of life as found in a representative sampling of Chinese, Japanese and Indian thought.

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December 1, 1987

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA • INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA 15705

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies • 451 John Sutton Hall • 412-357-2310

Professor Harold Sommer  
Chair, Curriculum Committee

Justification of Proposal of Title Change for Ph405

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies proposes to change the title of PH 405, Human Rights: Their Basis and Boundaries to PH 405, Justice and Human Rights. The reason for the change is to more accurately reflect the content of the course. This content has not changed, and there is no need to change the Catalog description. The course has always included theories of justice as a philosophical foundation for human rights. A close connection is recognized to exist between conceptions of the just society and claims of right. This course is especially appropriate to students interested in law and society, and in social justice, and we wish to have this title approved to more accurately portray the nature of the course to students.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

  
Susan M. Purviance

Suggested Change:

An examination and critique of the religious philosophies...

III. Religions of China and Japan Vs Eastern Religious And Philosophical Thought.

The approach to Religions of China and Japan is sociological and anthropological. It focuses on the historical development of the religions, the cultures of these countries and the interaction between the cultures and the religions.

Eastern Religious And Philosophical Thought focuses on Eastern thought, not historical development and not culture. It is an in depth introduction to, and analysis of, the thought. It is thus more similar, in focus, to RS 440, Contemporary Western Religious Thought.

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