Proposal Date: September 8, 2014

**Potter College of Arts & Letters**

**Department of Philosophy and Religion**

**Proposal to Create a Temporary Course**

**(Information Item for First Offering. Action Item for Second Offering)**

Contact Person: Grace Hunt, 270 799 7883, grace.hunt@wku.edu

1. **Identification of proposed course:**
   1. Course prefix (subject area) and number: PHIL 208
   2. Course title: Philosophy of Public Space: Reason, Action & Violence
   3. Abbreviated course title: Philosophy of Public Space  
      (maximum of 30 characters or spaces)
   4. Credit hours: 3
   5. Schedule type: Lecture (L)
   6. Prerequisites/corequisites: None
   7. Grade type: standard letter grade
   8. Course description: An exploration of how public spaces (squares, malls, streets, parks, and sidewalks) shape citizenship by enabling and disabling public discourse and political participation. Demands for justice and fairness that have been made in public spaces will be investigated and evaluated.
2. **Rationale**
   1. Reason for offering this course on a temporary basis: Full course proposal is currently in the review/approval process. That process, however, will not be completed in time for this course to be appear on the Spring 2015 schedule (though approval should be complete by the end of this semester).
   2. Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other academic units: PHIL 208 not only touches on material that comes up in other philosophy courses, including philosophers such as Aristotle and Heidegger, and issues including justice, community, and society, but it extends discussion of issues from PHIL 101, 102, and 103 by specifically addressing how rationality, action and violence are used to promote community in public spaces. Although there are courses offered at WKU that discuss planning and community issues related to PHIL 208, no courses develop, from a philosophical point of view, the tensions which surround the negotiation of public space. SWRK 523 - Rural Community Organization and Development (3 hours), ICSR 301- Community Development Through Service- Learning, FLK 371 Urban Folklore, Geography Major 675 Cultural Geography. HON 251 Citizen and Self focuses on local efforts in democratic engagement. Several of our benchmark schools including Ball State, Appalachian State, Bowling Green State University, Central Michigan University have course offerings in Political and Social philosophy, but no comparable courses in public philosophy or urban philosophy. DePaul, Emory, and Portland State Universities all offer Philosophy and the City courses that are very similar to PHIL 208.
3. **Description of proposed course**
   1. Course content outline
4. Public Space and Public Reason

* What is the relationship between progress and the public use of reason? (E.g., for Immanuel Kant and Jurgen Habermas)

1. Constructing Cities and Individuals

* Do towns and cities reflect a collective will or do those spaces shape individual identities? (E.g. Martin Heidegger and Henri Lefebvre)

3) Safety and Surveillance

* How does the physical structure of space determine public behavior and self-awareness? (E.g., Michel Foucault and Jane Jacobs)

4) Who Counts? Geographies of Exclusion

* How does racially segregated space affect dignity? (E.g., Cornel West and bell hooks)

5) Public space POST 9/11

* Whose lives and what neighborhoods are allowed to be publically protected and whose deaths are allowed to be publically mourned? (E.g., Judith Butler)
  1. Tentative text: *Philosophy and the City: Classic to Contemporary Writings*, Sharon Meagher, Ed. New York: SUNY Press, 2008

1. **Second offering of a temporary course (if applicable)**
   1. Reason for offering this course a second time on a temporary basis:
   2. Term course was first offered:
   3. Enrollment in first offering:
2. **Term of Implementation: Spring 2015**
3. **Dates of review/approvals:**

Philosophy program September 3, 2014

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Department of Philosophy and Religion |  | September 10, 2014 |
| Dean, Potter College |  | 12 Sept. 2014 |
| Office of the Provost |  |  |