Proposal Date: March 3, 2014

Potter College of Arts & Letters
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Proposal to Create a Temporary Course
(Information Item—First Offering)

Contact Person: Audrey L. Anton, audrey.anton@wku.edu, 270-745-5757

1. Identification of proposed course:

1.1 Course prefix (subject area) and number: PHIL 211
1.2 Course title: Why are Bad People Bad?
1.3 Abbreviated course title: Why are Bad People Bad?
(maximum of 30 characters or spaces)
1.4 Credit hours: 3
1.5 Schedule type: L
1.6 Prerequisites/corequisites: None
1.7 Grade type: __X__ standard letter grade _____ pass/fail _____in progress (IP)
1.8 Course description: A study of enduring questions about the darker side of human nature—such as whether people are born bad and whether people are responsible for vice and evil—providing a philosophical analysis of a wide range of examples from disciplines such as history, theology, literature, criminology, sociology, psychology, and neuroscience.

2. Rationale

2.1 Reason for offering this course on a temporary basis: To ensure that it appears on the course schedule so that students recognize PHIL 211 as an option. We are in the process of submitting an Action Item proposing the existence of the course.
2.1 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other academic units: The following courses touch on issues related to the proposed course: PS 328 *Criminal Justice*; PS 350 *Political Terrorism*; SOCL 231 *Survey of Criminal Justice*; SOCL 309 *Social Deviance,* SOCL 330 *Criminology*; SOCL 434 *Organized Crime,* SOCL 435 *Family Violence,* SOCL 451 *White Collar Crime*; PSYC 440 *Abnormal Psychology*; SWRK 356 *Services to Juvenile Offenders*. These courses address specific topics in depth and concern particular problems of depraved human behavior. None of them, however, provides a foundational treatment of the philosophical problems concerning the nature of vice and how this relates to ethical issues and theories.

3. Description of proposed course

3.1 Course content outline

(1) Are people bad by nature?
   a. Bad seed theory
   b. Neuroscience of psychopathy
   c. Personality types/disorders
(2) Are people bad because of nurture or experience?
   a. Upbringing—child abuse and neglect (cycles of)
   b. Cultural influences
   c. Individual personal experience

(3) Can someone choose whether to be bad?
   a. Free will
   b. Conscious deliberation and practical reasoning
   c. Moral responsibility

(4) Are there desires or attitudes that tend to lead to being bad?
   a. Resentment
   b. Envy
   c. Jealousy
   d. The 7 deadly sins
   e. Individualism and anti-authoritarianism

(5) Why do we hate (each) other(s)?
   a. Competition
   b. Ambiguity of being an individual in a collective
   c. Genocide
   d. Phobias and hate groups (e.g., xenophobia, homophobia, misogyny and sexism, racism, ageism)

3.2 Tentative text(s)
Kupperman, J. J. (2010) *Theories of Human Nature*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co.
Stout, M. (2005). *The Sociopath Next Door*. New York: Three Rivers Press.
Taylor, G. (2006). *Deadly Vices*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Various additional short texts provided through library resources.

4. Second offering of a temporary course (if applicable)

4.1 Reason for offering this course a second time on a temporary basis:
4.2 Term course was first offered:
4.3 Enrollment in first offering:

5. Term of Implementation:

201430

6. Dates of review/approvals:

Department of Philosophy and Religion	**March 4, 2014**
Dean, Potter College of Arts & Letters	
Office of the Provost	

Office of the Registrar

COURSE INVENTORY FORM

Check One ☐ **Create New Course** ☒ **Temporary Course Offering**

1. **Has this course previously been offered on a temporary basis?** ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, indicate the term offered ____

2. **Subject Area** PHIL | **Course Number** 211 | **Course Title** (as it should appear on the transcript; maximum of 30 letters & spaces) WHY ARE BAD PEOPLE BAD?

3. **Term for Implementation** (e.g., Spring 2012=201210, Fall 2012=201230) 201430

4. **Official Course Title** WHY ARE BAD PEOPLE BAD?

5. **Offering Unit** (See Table of Code Values.) College AR Department PHIL

6. **Credit Hours** Fixed Credit Hours: 3.00 Variable Credit Hours ____ ____ ____

7. **Repeat Limit** (See instructions.) 0 **Total Maximum Hours** (See instructions.) ____

8. **Grading** (Check all that apply.) ☒ Standard Letter Grading ☐ Pass/Fail Only ☐ No Grade
☐ In Progress – IP (Course is intended to span more than one term.)

9. **Schedule Type** (See Table of Schedule Types.) L ____ ____

10. **Corequisites** (courses required to be taken **concurrently** with this course)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number

11. **Equivalent Courses** (Include South Campus [C suffix] courses and other equivalent courses.)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number

12. **Prerequisites** (See instructions.)

Subject Area	Course Number		Subject Area	Course Number		Subject Area	Course Number

☐ Other ____

13. **Course Attribute** ☐ Honors Course ☐ Developmental Course

14. **Course Restrictions** ☐ Include/☐ Exclude College ____ College ____ Major ____ Major ____ Classification ____

15. **Course Description** (Indicate exactly as it should appear in the University Catalog. Include pertinent special information, e.g., course fees, pass/fail grading, field trips, transportation requirements, etc.)

A study of enduring questions about the darker side of human nature—such as whether people are born bad and whether people are responsible for vice and evil—providing a philosophical analysis of a wide range of examples from disciplines such as history, theology, literature, criminology, sociology, psychology, and neuroscience.

16. **Approvals for Temporary Course Only:**

Department Head Eric Bain-Selbo Date 3/5/14
College Dean ____ Date ____
Graduate Dean ____ Date ____
Provost Office ____ Date ____

Office of the Registrar Use
UCC ____ University Senate ____ CIP ____ Course Desc ____
Graduate Council ____ Provost ____ Banner Data ____ Evaluate ____