## Writing Course Review Form (12/1/08)

### I. General Education Review - Writing Course

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dept/Program Subject</th>
<th>Philosophy</th>
<th>Course # (i.e. ENEX 200)</th>
<th>PHIL 300</th>
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| Course Title          | Moral Philosophy |

### II. Endorsement/Approvals

Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please type / print name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Bridget Clarke</th>
<th>Phone / Email</th>
<th>b243-5314</th>
<th><a href="mailto:bridget.clarke@umontana.edu">bridget.clarke@umontana.edu</a></th>
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| Program Chair            | David Sherman |

### III. Overview of the Course Purpose/Description:

Provides an introduction to the subject matter and explains course content and learning goals.

Moral Philosophy provides a rigorous introduction for philosophy majors to the conceptual foundations that underlie the three leading approaches to contemporary moral philosophy (deontology, utilitarianism, and virtue ethics) through a close consideration of the classical texts in the Western philosophical tradition.

Students who successfully complete this course will be well versed in the most important ethical works of Aristotle, Kant, and Mill (among others) and will be able to apply the concepts that inform each of these ethical approaches to concrete ethical questions. Furthermore, the student will be able to identify and critically assess the theoretical underpinnings of both the student’s own ethical positions and competing ones.

### IV. Learning Outcomes:

Explain how each of the following learning outcomes will be achieved.

**Student learning outcomes:**

- **Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts**
  
  Every paper required for the course not only presupposes that the student has assimilated the relevant materials but also requires the student to demonstrate that he or she can apply the concepts learned either to a critique of the underlying position or to a particular ethical question.

- **Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing**
  
  Every paper required for the course requires the student to go beyond a mere exegesis of the class materials. Whether the student is required to interpret and criticize the class materials or apply them to a particular factual situation, he or she is required to formulate and express opinions and ideas.

- **Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose**
  
  The student will be instructed in the proper writing techniques in philosophy, and during class discussion will be presenting his or her work to other members of the class.
Revise written work based on constructive feedback

Every paper that is submitted is returned to the student with oral and/or written feedback, and the student must then revise the original submission.

Find, evaluate, and use information effectively (see http://www.lib.umt.edu/informationliteracy/)

The student will receive instruction from the professor with respect to the basic research and writing conventions.

Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions

The student will receive guidance from the professor in regard to the basic conventions of philosophy.

Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

Clarity, grammar, and style are indispensable with respect to the well crafted philosophy paper, and these matters will be included in the professor’s feedback and factor into the paper’s grade.

V. Writing Course Requirements Check list

Is enrollment capped at 25 students?
If not, list maximum course enrollment. Explain how outcomes will be adequately met for this number of students. Justify the request for variance.

☐ Yes ☐ No
The course number is not currently capped at 25 and, historically, the number has hovered between 25 and 35 students. However, the department will offer an additional section of the course each year and will cap all offerings at 25.

Are outcomes listed in the course syllabus? If not, how will students be informed of course expectations?

☐ Yes ☐ No
Outcomes are not currently contained in the course syllabus but they will be.

Are expectations for Information Literacy listed in the course syllabus? If not, how will students be informed of course expectations?

☐ Yes ☐ No
Expectations for Information Literacy are not currently listed in the course syllabus but they will be.

Are detailed requirements for all written assignments included in the course syllabus? If not how and when will students be informed of written assignments?

☐ Yes ☐ No
Fairly detailed requirements for written assignments are listed in the course syllabus. Additional instructions concerning written assignments are provided orally by the professor before the distribution of each assignment.

What instructional methods will be used to teach students to write for specific audiences, purposes, and genres?

The student is expected to conform to the requirements of appropriate philosophical writing, a skill that will be taught through feedback on both papers and presentations.

Will written assignments include an opportunity for revision? If not, then explain how students will receive and use feedback to improve their writing ability.

X ☐ Yes ☐ No
VI. Writing Assignments: Please describe course assignments. Students should be required to individually compose at least 16 pages of writing for assessment. At least 50% of the course grade should be based on students’ performance on writing assignments. Clear expression, quality, and accuracy of content are considered an integral part of the grade on any writing assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formal Graded Assignments</th>
<th>75% of the course grade is based upon the written assignments. The 3600 words required in the current syllabus translate to roughly 12 pages of writing. The word requirement will be bumped up to 4800 words or so to meet the 16 page minimum requirement.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal Ungraded Assignments</td>
<td>0%</td>
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VII. Syllabus: Paste syllabus below or attach and send digital copy with form. The syllabus should clearly describe how the above criteria are satisfied. For assistance on syllabus preparation see: http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html

Paste syllabus here.