

# Philosophy

## Graduate and Undergraduate Review

### Year 3 (2022) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2018/19)

#### Recommendation #1

The department should conduct a complete curriculum review to provide broader, but more efficient coverage, align courses at different levels, and increase enrollment.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the complete curriculum review will also serve to address the reviewers' other recommendations (5,6,7) about possible curriculum changes.

#### Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
<b>Action #1</b> The Department discussed and agreed to offering a broader range of courses.	Department	T	T	C
<b>Action #2</b> The Department recognizes the need to employ part-time instructors to bolster course offerings.	Department	T	O	
<b>Action #3</b> Posting of future courses on the Department website is an ongoing project.	Department	T	T	C

Comment February 2020:

The Department’s teaching budget proposal was tendered in the fall 2019 term. It is still under review at the decanal level. The Dean of Humanities indicated that budgetary constraints may limit the Department’s course offerings for 2020-21. Once the Department is informed of the approved course offerings, a webpage listing these along with future offerings will be posted online.

Comment February 2021:

The Department has introduced a number of new first and second year courses in an effort to diversify our offerings. Last term we employed 3 part-time instructors, while this term we have 2 part-time instructors; note that 1 of these instructors is teaching a two-term introductory course. Next year we are on target to employ part-time instructors to teach one introductory course and two second/third year courses. Finally, the Department website is currently undergoing a complete redesign with the hope of having it completed in March 2021

Comment March 2022:

We employed a total of three part-time instructors this year. In addition, one part-time instructor taught two full-credit courses for the Department. These courses included PHIL 1F90, PHIL 2P95, the largest upper-year course the Dept offers, and PHIL 2P25. Unfortunately, implementing Action item # 1 will have to wait until the 2023-2024 cycle as we have two members of the Department taking sabbaticals during the 2022-2023 academic year. Regarding action item # 3, we plan on posting the 2022-2023 Fall/Winter Schedule on the Department's website by early May.

**Recommendation #2**

The department should hire 1 or 2 LTA's so that full-time faculty can limit overload teaching, as an intermediary measure until a full-time tenure-track faculty member can be hired.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction. It is expected that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation #3**

The department should hire a tenure-track specialist in Chinese philosophy and continental philosophy, to continue to provide a strong non-western and comparative program.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction. It is expected that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Comment February 2020:**

The Department continues to request each year for a hire in these areas of specialization. This has been an ongoing effort by the Department in its attempt to replace past and recent retirements.

**Comment February 2021:**

The Department continues to request each year for a hire in these areas of specialization. This has been an ongoing effort by the Department in its attempt to replace past and recent retirements. This year the request was again denied. The Department will continue seeking new appointments to replace retired faculty members.

**Comment March 2022:**

The Department received permission to post a job advertisement for a hire in Chinese Philosophy commencing in the Fall of 2021. The posting was advertised widely, and the Dept. received well over 20+ high-quality applications. However, hiring was delayed and we hope to restart the hiring process for this position in the Winter of 2022.

**Recommendation #4**

The Department should offer additional large, introductory courses to increase enrollment.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department proposed offering 3 large enrollment first year philosophy courses for 2020-21 in the Fall 2019 budget submission.	Department	C	C	
Action #2 Two of these three introductory courses are to be taught by part-time instructors.	Department	C	C	O
Action #3 One of these three introductory courses is a newly designed class aimed at garnering high enrollment. Two other newly designed introductory courses are being prepared for 2021-22.	Department	T	T	O

Comment February 2020:

Budgetary constraints have impacted the Department's initiatives in this regard. The Dean of Humanities has limited to 2 the number of introductory course offerings: one will be taught by a part-time instructor, and the newly designed offering will be taught by a tenured faculty member. Historically, the Department has been quite successful in recruiting Philosophy Majors through these first year offerings, hence offering only 2 of the 3 will significantly and negatively impact these efforts.

Comment February 2021:

The Department is offering 2 introductory courses this year, one of which is taught by a part-time instructor. Next year the Department will again offer 2 such courses. This spring just as last spring, the Department is offering 1 introductory course. Of these fall/winter courses, one of these is a newly designed first year course; the coming spring course is also a newly designed first year course; and one of the introductory courses for the next academic year will also be a newly designed course. The addition of these newly designed courses also contributes to the on-going diversification of our undergraduate curriculum.

Comment March 2022:

Due to the significant staffing issues the Department is facing next year, we cannot offer three first-year courses. However, we will offer two first-year courses in the Fall/Winter semester and a first-year course in the Spring. The Department created a new course PHIL 1F95: The Meaning of Life. A trial run of this course was launched in the Summer of 2021. By all measures, this course proved very successful. After completing the course, two students

were inspired to declare a double major in Philosophy, while several more applied to the minor program. As a result, the course will again be offered this coming term to a much larger audience of approximately 160 students during the regular Fall/Winter cycle.

**Recommendation #5**

The Department should consider developing a new course that builds on their transdisciplinarity, and that further raises the profile of philosophy amongst students and within the university - for example, a course on information technology ethics.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that this will be considered during the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #1.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department  
 Responsible for implementation: Department  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
<p>Action #1                      The Department plans to offer PHIL 3Q98 in the fall 2020, and PHIL 3P19 is currently being taught.</p>	Department	T	O	
<p>Action #2                      The Department has recognized the demand for and continual success of PHIL/BIOL 2P95, and plans on offering this course on a yearly basis as well as allowing part-time instructors to teach the class.</p>	Department	T	O	
<p>Action #3                      The development of new transdisciplinary courses is a long term goal.</p>	Department	D	T	D

Comment February 2020:

The Department is moving forward with offering its current slate of transdisciplinary courses, but is hampered by its lack of faculty to develop new courses of this type. The

\* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

Department has been attempting for quite sometime to be granted a new faculty position hire, which would make possible such curricular additions, but has not had these requests fulfilled.

**Comment February 2021:**

The Department is currently offering PHIL 3Q98 (2021 Winter/D3). In addition, the Department is intent on offering PHIL 2P95 on a yearly basis, and will endeavor to make it part of its undergraduate curriculum every year. It will be taught by a part time instructor or a tenured faculty member. In addition to these two courses, a new course, PHIL 3P18 The Technological Dimension, will be offered in 2021-22. It will build upon and advance the work in PHIL 2P18 Postmodernism. Also, see the comment February 2021 for Recommendation #4, as three newly designed introductory courses will be offered by the next academic year.

**Comment March 2022:**

PHIL 2P95 is a hugely successful course and will continue to be offered every year. However, as far as developing a new transdisciplinary course for next year is concerned, this has been put on hold because of the Department's significant staffing issues in 2022-2023. One member will be on a full sabbatical. Another member is on a half-sabbatical and has been granted teaching release for the semester he is not on leave. Therefore the Department's staffing resources will be stretched thin next year as we will only have four full-time members to run our undergraduate and graduate programs.

**Recommendation #6**

The Department should consider working with other programs, and the support of administration, to develop a certificate in pre-law and/or ethics, built out of existing courses that are already being taught within the department.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**  
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that this will be considered during the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #1.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

\* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department chair is to develop contacts with the Faculty of Education.	Department	D	O	
Action #2 The Department chair is to develop contacts with the Law Plus program.	Department	D	T	T

Comment February 2020:

The Department chair has placed on hold this recommendation. Two key factors have disrupted the administration of the Department: the Department had to replace its full time administrative assistant during the fall 2019 term, and then train the new assistant, which is an ongoing and so far successful project. Secondly, the Department is facing a physical relocation, which was initially supposed to happen with four months notice after April 2019. This planned relocation has been pushed back numerous times with the latest date being April 2020.

Comment February 2021:

The Department was physically relocated in September 2020, in the midst of the campus pandemic lockdown. As of this writing, most of the faculty have not seen their new offices, let alone unpacked their office moving boxes. Despite these massive changes to the Department's normal operations, the Chair has established contacts with the Faculty of Education: a new course, PHIL 2Q91, cross-listed with EDUC and CANA, will be offered in Spring 2021, and then on a yearly basis moving forward. For years, the Philosophy Department was unable to hire a qualified instructor for PHIL 2Q90, but by working with EDUC, a replacement course will be readily available to our students.

Furthermore, the Department has developed certificates in Ethics and Pre-Law. These will be available to students in the undergraduate 2021-22 Brock Calendar. The intent of these micro-credentials is to offer students alternate ways to enroll in Brock courses.

Comment March 2022:

There has been an effort to connect with the Law Plus program. One of the Department members presented a seminar to the Law Plus cohort regarding the benefits of taking PHIL 2P25 in preparation for the LSAT.

**Recommendation #7**

The Department should consider developing an online or hybrid online/in-person course to increase enrollment and transdisciplinarity, and attract more majors and minors.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that this will be considered during the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #1.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department  
 Responsible for implementation: Department  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department should develop additional transdisciplinary courses.	Department	D	O	
Action #2 The development of new transdisciplinary courses is a long term goal.	Department	D	O	
Action #3 Raising the profile of PHIL 2P25 Logic is an ongoing project of the Department.	Department	T	T	T

**Comment February 2020:**

As stated above in the Comment for Recommendation #5, the lack of internal Department faculty resources does not make the creation of new transdisciplinary courses a viable action at the current moment.

**Comment February 2021:**

The pandemic shut down of the university has given the Department new opportunities to address these particular actions (#1 and #2). Even with our limited faculty complement, we are endeavoring to offer new courses, such as PHIL 1F95, PHIL 1F96, PHIL 1F97, and PHIL 3P18. With the addition of our certificates in Pre-Law and Ethics, and the resounding

\* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)



success of PHIL 2P25 over the past few years, the Department has worked to raise the profile of all of these courses.

Comment March 2022:

PHIL 2P25 is a high enrollment course. One way to raise the profile of this course would be to collaborate with the Law Plus program and offer more workshops with them. Reaching out to the Law Plus program will be something the Dept will endeavor to explore next year.

**Recommendation #8**

The department should consider expanding the M.A. program to two years. This would give graduate students an extra semester to take courses (thereby mitigating graduate student concern with course offerings) and make more students available to run seminars in additional large, first-year courses.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department  
 Responsible for implementation: Department  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department has submitted to the appropriate committees the above modifications for the PHIL MA Program.	Department	T	C	
Action #2 Follow-up justifications and forms to explain the proposed modifications have also been submitted.	Department	T	C	

Comment February 2020:

The Department is currently navigating the bureaucratic requirements for implementing the program modifications of the MA Program. The Department is hopeful that these efforts will be successful, and that the modified program will begin in the fall 2020. The final approval

\* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

for the proposed program modifications is granted by committees outside of the Department, and those approvals are still pending.

Comment February 2021:

In the fall of 2020, the Department enrolled its first cohort of graduate students into its newly designed 5 term MA degree. The pandemic has certainly altered the impact of this structural change, but with the hope of returning to in-person classes in 2021 Fall, this first cohort will have the opportunity for an authentic graduate experience with their peers along with direct access to their professors. Also note that there was an important correction made to the PHIL MA Graduate Program calendar entry. The corrected version should appear in the 2021-22 calendar.

Comment March 2022:

The transition to a five-term program has proven to be very successful. With five terms, students have more time to hone their intellectual skills. We also provide students with an opportunity to present papers at our Research In Progress meetings—a helpful proving ground for students thinking about submitting their work to conferences.

**Recommendation #9**

The department (and administration) should consider developing incentives for faculty to apply for external funding, in order to make their graduate student funding more competitive and thereby raise the quality of their already very good graduate program.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction and has implications with respect to the Brock University/Faculty Association Collective Agreement.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation #10**

The department should engage in conversations with Recruitment, Career Education, and Experiential Learning contacts at the University, to explore the possibility of programs that would benefit philosophy students, and reach out to the community, but not further tax an already over-stretched faculty complement.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department  
 Responsible for implementation: Department  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department should develop further contacts within and outside of the University in order to promote its programs.	Department	D	D	D

Comment February 2020:

Given the transitions that the Department is facing, along with its already over-taxed faculty, these efforts have been delayed.

Comment February 2021:

Given the pandemic restrictions, making outreach efforts, let alone developing such programs and relations external to Brock, is quite impossible. Of course, our limited faculty staffing issues have not changed since last year.

Comment March 2022:

We are in the same boat as we were in 2021: the Department has limited staff and due to departmental issues it isn't easy, at this time, to develop other contacts outside the University. Internal consultations with Recruitment and Career Education and Experiential Learning (CEEL) have also been delayed for the same reason.

\* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

However, the Department has put on four successful Research in Progress Sessions via Teams this year. These sessions highlight the current research trajectories of our faculty and graduate students and are well-attended by philosophy and non-philosophy Brock students. On occasion, academics from other universities also attend these talks. The Department plans on reaching out to Recruitment, CEEL, and the community at large (e.g. Brock Talks) next year.