

**LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. Type of Change: New Interdisciplinary Minor

2. Program Description: 21 credit Minor in Reasoning and Exposition

The Interdisciplinary Minor in Reasoning and Exposition provides students with courses that develop skills of critical thinking, quantitative literacy, and persuasive communication. While these are outcomes for many, if not most liberal arts and sciences courses, this minor allows for their concentrated and sustained development. Students completing this minor will develop capacities for thought, understanding and expression essential for graduate research and professional programs.

Degree Requirements

21 Credit minor. Students satisfy the requirements for the 21 credit minor by taking the following six courses.

PHI 169 Critical Reasoning (3)
PHI 170 Introduction to Logic (3)
ENW 201 Advanced Expository Writing (4)
PHI 230: Symbolic Logic (3)
SOC 3470: Reasoning with Data (4)
PHI 4010: Critical Thinking in Practice (4)

3. Rationale: This interdisciplinary minor in Reasoning and Exposition is student initiated. In the spring of 2014, Mr. Oswald Feliz, a Lehman College undergraduate student, came to the chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and several other administrators and faculty to explore the feasibility of creating a Pre-Law minor. After several discussions, it became apparent that students planning graduate work in other fields would also benefit from a course of study which emphasized critical thinking and communication skills. A subcommittee of students and members of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee met and created the curriculum. Four courses already existed. Two, one in quantitative reasoning and a second capstone course, are being created. The minor will be housed in the Department of Philosophy and co chaired by Professors Massimo Pigliucci and Rosalind Carey.

4. Date of Philosophy Department Approval: 5 March 2014

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CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. **Type of change:** New Course
2. **Course Description:** PHI 4010, Critical Thinking in Practice. 4 hours, 4 credits. A capstone for the Minor in Reason and Exposition, which is also open to non-minors. Students will be directed toward a semester-long independent research project applying basic skills in critical reasoning, writing and quantitative analysis. The specific research topic to be decided by each student under instructor supervision. The course is characterized by in-class discussion of ongoing projects and culminates in in-class presentations and a final paper on each project. Pre-requisites: PHI 169, PHI 170, ENW 201; Pre or co-requisites: PHI 230, SOC 3470; or by Departmental Permission.
3. **Rationale:** This course is created for the new minor in Reason and Composition. It will be one of six required courses.
4. **Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the course, students will be expected to:
 - Demonstrate mastery of critical thinking skills (recognition of logical fallacies and cognitive biases).
 - Demonstrate mastery of principles of data analysis.
 - Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
 - Understand the role of theoretical and abstract reasoning in society and public policy or public concerns.
 - Propose and carry out a research project applying those skills.
 - Be able to write a paper presenting the results of the research.
5. **Course Categories:**
 - This is a Liberal Arts & Sciences course.
 - This is not a General Education course.
6. **Date of Philosophy Departmental Approval: 5 March 2014**