

Core Curriculum Committee
Notes
November 15, 2006

Present: C. Jenkins, M. Coleman, C. Alexander, S. Ntafos, J. Hoffman, C. Cantrell, D. Buhrmester, E. Elliott, L. Salter, M. Chaffin

Absent: K. Jarrell

Proposed Additions to the Core Curriculum:

1). EE 1102 – Introduction to Experimental Technique (030)

Discussion:

S. Ntafos stated that this one hour course would serve to enable ECS students to fulfill their remaining 1 hour of required science core after taking the 8 hours of chemistry or physics.

J. Hoffman raised concerns that this is essentially the same course as PHYS 2126 and there exist overlapping experiments in both classes. As engineering students take both of these courses, this would not work

C. Cantrell stated that they are not the same: EE1102 is an instrumentation class (that assumes no high school physics) while PHYS 2126 *uses* instrumentation to explore the principles (and has a calculus pre-requisite).

D. Buhrmester stated that it is not the CCC's concern to focus on redundancy across core courses; that is a discipline- based issue.

It was asked if students in other disciplines could take EE 1102 and S. Ntafos stated yes. He had discussed the possibility of an increased student load with the instructors should this be approved as core, and he was told that it is possible to handle a 30% increase or so.

D. Buhrmester asked if the CCC believes this is a science core course.

C. Cantrell suggested that feedback from the CCC be brought to the engineering department so that they can consider overlap with the physics lab and not duplicate curriculum.

It was discussed whether or not to add the word "Science" to the title of the course. This was decided to be unnecessary.

***EE 1102 Introduction to Experimental Technique was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2). ECS 3360 Professional Ethics and Social Issues in Computer Science and Engineering (080)

S. Ntafos stated that this course will serve to fulfill the ABET requirement for Ethics for ECS majors, but it will be taught through the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences, and cross-listed with SOCS 3360.

D. Buhrmester stated that this is not a social or behavioral science course – ethics falls under Humanities, therefore this shouldn't satisfy the social/behavioral science core – particularly with the new objectives we are defining.

S. Ntafos explained that there were two objectives that ABET is trying to achieve:

1. Students learn about ethics relative to their profession
2. Students gain an understanding of the societal impact of their profession

D. Buhrmester stated that the purpose of the core curriculum is to expose student to the field of social and/or behavioral science and this class does not appear to be able to do that.

M. Coleman shared the history of the course which was to accommodate engineering students with greater hours required for their degree – enabling them to take a core course that also counted as a degree requirement.

M. Wilson stated that ethics as a field was really a part of *philosophy*, but that studying ethical implications can be a social science.

D. Buhrmester stated that his concern is that the course only meets one of the three core objectives (the *application* of ethics). The question is that if students in EE only have this one course as their exposure to the social and behavioral sciences, are they really getting a good exposure to those disciplines?

E. Elliott stated that the course can be worked so as to tailor it more to the other core objectives.

The course will teach students:

1. Professional ethics
2. The impact of their work on society
3. How societal influences impact their work

The course description will be rewritten and re-submitted to the CCC.

We will meet again on November 29.

3). PHYS 2421 Honors Physics I Mechanics and Heat

4). PHYS 2422 Honors Physics II Electromagnetism and Waves

J. Hoffman stated that both of these count as core in their non-honors form. He is proposing that the honors sections also count as core.

***PHYS 2421 and PHYS 2422 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**