

| For Curriculum Committee use | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| Semester(s) this course was previously offered: | Proposal Number: | |

College for Seniors COURSE PROPOSAL

Please complete this form with the understanding that you may revise the course description and topics before the catalog is finalized. To see a catalog from last semester, go to the College for Seniors Web site: www.isualum.org/en/college_for_seniors

If you are completing this form using Microsoft Word, note that it is done in tables form. To see (or to hide) the gridlines, click the Table menu and click Show Gridlines (or Hide Gridlines).

- Course title: Great Questions: Can We Answer Them Now?
- General field of interest (e.g., Science, Music): Philosophy, Science, History
- Curriculum Committee contact person: Sam Wormley
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
- Instructor or coordinator: Frank Rizzo (12.5.2008)
Address: 1508 Little Bluestem Ct. City: Ames, IA Zip: 50014
Phone: 515 - 296 - 2987 E-mail: fireelbow@gmail.com

Brief background of instructor (all or part of this will be used in the catalog):

Frank Rizzo is professor emeritus at ISU, and he previously held faculty positions at the U of Illinois, U of Washington and U of Kentucky. He has received a number of teaching awards and is known internationally for his research in applied mathematics.

What do we, or can we know about the world...and ourselves? We say water and carpets, puppies and people, have *real* existence; but what about mathematics, the color blue, and beauty? What about values, virtues and morals, are they all subjective? How are beliefs related to truths, and evidence related to knowledge? Is there a best kind of life? Some responses to these questions are better than others, and this class will compare our ideas with ancient thinkers, such as Socrates and Aristotle, and with later ones representing various disciplines. We'll consider the unprecedented impact of Newton and Darwin on philosophical as well as scientific thought. We'll examine contemporary ideas about the brain, mind, and consciousness. We ask: is free will real, or do we just think we have it? How important are concepts of immortality? Finally, after 2400 years, how much better equipped are we, with help from modern science, to consider the questions above, than was Aristotle?

Each class will begin with a 30-minute *video*-lecture on DVD, by Daniel N. Robinson, from the faculty of Oxford University, and Georgetown University where he is Distinguished Professor emeritus, He is widely recognized as a truly outstanding teacher, and an authority on the History of Ideas, and the Philosophy of Mind. But *your* views and perspectives will be paramount in the discussions immediately following the lectures. These are titled:

- What is There?
- Pythagoras and the Divinity of Number
- Newton – The Saint of Science
- Darwin and Nature's "Purposes"
- Philosophy of Mind, If There is One
- What Makes a Problem Moral?
- Four Theories of the Good Life
- God – Really?

Professor Robinson makes us think hard - very hard - about things most of us don't consider very often. Yet he speaks with freshness, clarity, with authority, and great respect for his audience. You'll like him!

6. Specific topics to be covered in the number of classes proposed.

Concepts of Reality and the Natural world, Impact of the contributions of Newton and Darwin, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind, Four Theories of the Good Life, Some Questions about Consciousness, Free Will, and Theology.

This paragraph should be on page 2. If you needed more space than was provided on page 1, this paragraph will have moved to page 3. To move it back to page 2, click before the first word of this paragraph and press Backspace to remove the page break.

7. Preferred

class size: ___ 15 or less X 16-25 ___ 26-35 ___ 36-45 ___ 46-55 ___ 55 or more

8. Preferred session

(include year) : _____ Sept.-Nov. _____ Jan.-Feb. X _____ March-May

9. Preferred number of

weeks and sessions: _____ 4 weeks _____ 6 weeks X _____ 8 weeks

Once a week Twice a week

10. Check preferred class time. Put N/A where you are not available.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Comments |
|-------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 9:00-10:30 | | N/A | | | |
| 11:00-12:30 | | X 2 nd Ch | | | |
| 1:00-2:30 | | X 1 st Ch. | | | |
| 3:00-4:30 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |

11. Recommended textbook (if any): _____

Where to obtain: _____

Cost of textbook: _____

Students will pay: Instructor College for Seniors when registering

12. Copying:

If a large quantity of printed materials is proposed, materials may be offered as a packet to be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Cost of printing, if substantial, may be added to cost of course.

Estimated number of pages to be copied for each session: Three to Five

13. Requested equipment (Podium with microphone, chalk, and dry-mark pens are provided at Scheman and ISU Foundation locations.)

Please check choices. (A more detailed form will be provided for your use before classes begin.)

NOTE: If using PowerPoint, you must provide your own computer.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DVD player | <input type="checkbox"/> LCD projector | <input type="checkbox"/> 35mm slide projector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VHS player | <input type="checkbox"/> Elmo (opaque) projector | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lapel microphone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD player | <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead transparency projector | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser pointer |

14. Please list any potential guest presenters and city in which they live:

15. Is travel reimbursement requested? Yes No