# http://www.ric.edu/webcommunications/images/SealWithText_Small_Black.pngUNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC)PROPOSAL FORM

## Cover page scroll over blue text to see further important [instructions](#instructions): please read.

**N.B. DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHT, please DELETE THE WORDS THAT DO NOT APPLY TO YOUR PROPOSAL**

**ALL numbers in section (A) need to be completed, including the impact ones.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A.1. [Course or program](#Proposal) | **Phil 2o7 Technology and the Future of Humanity** |  |
| [Replacing](#Ifapplicable)  | **n/a** |
| A.2. [Proposal type](#type) | **Course: creation**  |
| A.3. [Originator](#Originator) | **Aaron Smuts** | [Home department](#home_dept) | **Philosophy** |
| A.4. [Context and Rationale](#Rationale)  | **In this course, we will look at a number of important philosophical issues that have arisen in the wake of the many advancements in technology that have either already been made, or will be made within your lifetime. For instance, we will ask the following sorts of questions: What is technology? Could you escape death by uploading into a computer? Are you in a computer simulation right now? Would eternal life in a simulation be any good? Is your iphone a part of your mind? Will robots ever be truly conscious? Should we genetically enhance ourselves? Or clone ourselves? Should we stop factory-farming and grow meat in labs instead? Is it wrong to kill in video games? Should machines make life and death decisions? What code of ethics should driverless cars be given? Should we geoengineer the planet to combat climate change?** |
| A.5. [Student impact](#student_impact) | **This course will allow students interested in science and technology the opportunity to explore related philosophical and ethical issues. The course would also be more suitable for the CompSci BS than PHIL 206, which is currently required.** |
| A.6. [Impact on other programs](#impact)  | **None, although CSCI may in future change the requirements for their BS from 206 to 207, which they will discuss next year in their department.** |
| A.7. [Resource impact](#Resource) | [*Faculty PT & FT*](#faculty):  | **none** |
| [*Library*:](#library) | **None** |
| [*Technology*](#technology) | **None** |
| [*Facilities*](#facilities): | **None** |
| A.8. [Semester effective](#Semester_effective) | **Fall 2018** | A.9. [Rationale if sooner than next Fall](#Semester_effective) |  |
| A.10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATALOG COPY: This single file copy must include ALL relevant pages from the college catalog, and show how the catalog will be revised. (1) Go to the “Forms and Information” page on the UCC website. Scroll down until you see the Word files for the current catalog. (2) Download ALL catalog sections relevant for this proposal, including course descriptions and/or other affected programs. (3) Place ALL relevant catalog copy into a single file. Put page breaks between sections and delete any catalog pages not relevant for this proposal. (4) Using the track changes function, revise the catalog pages to demonstrate what the information should look like in next year’s catalog. (5) Check the revised catalog pages against the proposal form, especially making sure that program totals are correct if adding/deleting course credits. If new copy, indicate where it should go in the catalog. If making related proposals a single catalog copy that includes all is acceptable. Send as a separate file along with this form. |

B. [NEW OR REVISED COURSES](#delete_if)  **DO NOT use highlight. Delete this whole page if the proposal does not include a new or revised course.**

|  | Old ([for revisions only](#Revisions))Only include information that is being revised, otherwise leave blank (delete provided examples that do not apply) | NewExamples are provided for guidance, delete the ones that do not apply |
| --- | --- | --- |
| B.1. [Course prefix and number](#cours_title)  |  | **PHIL 207** |
| B.2. Cross listing number if any |  |  |
| B.3. [Course title](#title)  |  | **Technology and the Future of Humanity** |
| B.4. [Course description](#description)  |  | **Philosophical issues concerning recent and near term technological advances. Topics may include: uploading personhood, robot consciousness, machine life or death decision making, human enhancement and life extension, or simulated violence.** |
| B.5. [Prerequisite(s)](#prereqs) |  | **none** |
| B.6. [Offered](#Offered) |  | **Fall | Spring**  |
| B.7. [Contact hours](#contacthours)  |  | **3** |
| B.8. [Credit hours](#credits) |  | **3** |
| B.9. [Justify differences if any](#differences) |  |
| B.10. [Grading system](#grading)  |  | **Letter grade** |
| B.11. [Instructional methods](#instr_methods) |  | **Lecture**  |
| B.12.[Categories](#required) |  | **Free elective**  |
| B.13. Is this an Honors course? |  | **NO** |
| B.14. [General Education](#ge)N.B. Connections must include at least 50% Standard Classroom instruction. |  | **NO** |
| B.15. [How will student performance be evaluated?](#performance) |  | **Class participation | Exams | Presentations | Papers |** **Class Work | Quizzes | Projects**  |
| B.16. [Redundancy statement](#competing) |  |  |
| B. 17. Other changes, if any |  |

| B.18**.** [**Course learning outcomes**](#outcomes)**: List each one in a separate row** | [**Professional Org.Standard(s)**](#standards)**, if relevant** | [**How will each outcome be measured**](#measured)**?** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Critical and Creative Thinking |  | Analytic writing assignments and class discussion |
| Written Communication |  | Essay exams focused on the presentation and evaluation of arguments. |
| Oral Communication |  | In class discussion, students will evaluate arguments. |

| B.19. [**Topical outline**](#outline)**: Do NOT insert whole syllabus, we just need a two-tier outline** |
| --- |
| 1. Unit One Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Technology
	1. Intro, Definition, & Meaning or, What is technology?
	2. External World Skepticism or, Am I living in a computer simulation?
	3. Knowledge or, How Can I know things in the ‘Post-Truth’ Era?
	4. Identity & Immortality or, Can I upload myself and live forever?
	5. Artificial Intelligence or, Will machines ever be conscious?
	6. The Future of Consciousness or, Is my iphone a part of my mind?
	7. Time Travel or, Could I kill my grandpa if I traveled to the past?
2. Unit Two Ethics and Technology
	1. The Good Life or, Is eternal life in a simulation any good?
	2. Genetic Engineering or, Should we genetically enhance ourselves?
	3. Animals or, Should animals be eaten & experimented on?
	4. In Vitro Meat & Human Cloning or, Should humans and meat be grown in labs?
	5. Virtual Sins or, Is it wrong to kill someone in a video game?
	6. Autonomous Machines or, Should we create killer robots?
	7. The Future of Humanity or, What will the apocalypse be like?
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|  |

## D. Signatures

* Changes that affect General Education in any way MUST be approved by ALL Deans and COGE Chair.
* Changes that directly impact more than one department/program MUST have the signatures of all relevant department chairs, program directors, and relevant dean (e.g. when creating/revising a program using courses from other departments/programs). Check UCC manual 4.2 for further guidelines on whether the signatures need to be approval or acknowledgement.
* Proposals that do not have appropriate approval signatures will not be considered.
* Type in name of person signing and their position/affiliation.
* Send electronic files of this proposal and accompanying catalog copy to curriculum@ric.edu and a printed or electronic signature copy of this form to the current Chair of UCC. Check UCC website for due dates.

##### D.1. Approvals: required from programs/departments/deans who originate the proposal. may include multiple departments, e.g., for joint/interdisciplinary prposals.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#_Signature" \o "Insert electronic signature, if available, in this column) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aaron Smuts | Chair of Philosophy |  |  |
| Earl Simson | Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences |  |  |

##### D.2. [Acknowledgements](#acknowledge): REQUIRED from OTHER PROGRAMS/DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSAL. SIGNATURE DOES NOT INDICATE APPROVAL, ONLY AWARENESS THAT THE PROPOSAL IS BEING SUBMITTED. CONCERNS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE UCC COMMITTEE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#Signature_2) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |