Helpful Hints for Submission of Philosophy TAG Courses

The instructions given to the panel require us to determine “extent of match” regarding (a) learning outcomes, (b) rigor, (c) credit hours.

(A) Please don’t just list the OBR outcomes somewhere in the syllabus and leave it up to the panel to figure out how they are met. The online form requires a description of how the match addresses each learning outcome. Please be as specific as possible. Other learning outcomes listed in the syllabus should be aligned with the OBR outcomes. Consider the following sample outcome from an introduction to ethics syllabus: “Construct extended arguments and defend philosophical positions in ethics in writing (2, 7, 8, 9).” The numbers in parentheses refer to the OBR OAH046 Learning Outcomes.

(B) Instructions require panels to consider precision, accuracy, amount of time devoted to topic areas, textbooks used, etc. The four elements listed are examined to help determine whether the content is appropriate for the nature of the course proposed for TAG. For instance, a course in business ethics would not pass the test as the introduction to ethics. In practice, evidence of the use of philosophical method has been the most important consideration beyond content. Even students taking introductory courses students are expected to read and analyze pieces of work of some important philosophers and engage in philosophical discussion appropriate to the course level, not merely learn about philosophy. Applications should offer evidence that these activities are an essential part of the proposed courses.

(C) Items (A) and (B) above are relevant for courses submitted for initial approval or five-year review. Review of already approved courses for conversion to a semester calendar will focus on the appropriateness of the course content for the semester hours of instruction. In such cases, we request that applicants should specify whether any changes besides distribution of course content for a semester calendar have been made. Unless substantial changes have been made, the courses will undergo an expedited review.