General Education Submission Form

Electronic submissions are preferred.

A. GE component for which course is being proposed:
   Philosophical Reflections on Truth and Value

B. Submitted by Wayne Iba and Kim Kihlstrom

C. Ideally, submissions should be discussed by the entire department prior to submittal.
   [X] Chair has reviewed and approved the course.

D. Course being proposed (please attach syllabus):
   CS 050, Information and Computation

E. This course
   [X] Has not been modified, but is being submitted to check its suitability
   [X] Has had its syllabus rewritten to communicate the course’s contribution to GE
   [X] Has had its contents modified to address the relevant GE issues
   [ ] Is a new course designed to fulfill the GE requirement

F. This course is being submitted as
   [X] A Template. Applicable to courses with multiple sections which require only general training in the discipline. The submission should come from the department chair and should clearly identify what course content and what elements of the syllabus the department has agreed will common to all sections. Upon approval by the GE Committee, any course whose syllabus is determined by the department to meet the specifications of the template is approved to satisfy this area requirement. A copy of each syllabus should be forwarded to the G.E. committee for record keeping purposes.
   [ ] An Individual Course. Applicable to courses requiring specialized training in the discipline or are typically offered by a particular instructor. The course should be resubmitted and reassessed in the event of a change in staffing or syllabus.

G. Statement of rationale:
   (Please attach a copy of the syllabus which has been annotated (a) to identify the activities fulfilling each of the expectations for courses in this area and (b) to explain how the activity addresses the expectation. Electronic annotations are preferred.)

   This course can help to meet the student need for courses that satisfy Philosophical Reflections on Truth and Value. It received GE approval as an individual course in fall 2008, and Wayne taught it for the first time that semester. We plan to offer this course every year. Partially motivated by Wayne’s upcoming sabbatical, Kim would like to teach the course next fall, incorporating some of the ethics and gender material from her fall 2008 Europe semester course. Therefore, we are submitting the course as a template rather than an individual course. We have met together and agreed on common content and highlighted that portion in the attached syllabus. We have also met with Jim Taylor regarding this course and he supports it.

   The course goes beyond computer ethics or philosophy of AI (the traditional types of philosophically-intensive courses taught by computer scientists), toward a philosophy...
of information. We cover ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology in almost equal measures. Although students encounter each of these philosophical sub-disciplines in the context of information and computation, they are brought into conversation with the nature of these areas through some of the questions asked and methods employed to answer those questions.