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O. J. Wilson

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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

The first course in either philosophy or religion to be offered by the college was taught in the Spring of 1931 by Dr. Earl Moore of the English Department. The course was English 313, Biblical Literature, and was taught by Dr. Moore until his retirement in 1962. Dr. Moore was also the first to teach philosophy courses at Western. The 1961 College Catalog listed the first two philosophy courses, as Phil. 300 (Introduction to Philosophy) and Phil. 301 (Ethics), ^{were offered.}

Western's first full-time professor of philosophy, Dr. Stephen Levinsohn, taught during the 1962-63 school year. During that year, ^{the first two} one new course, Philosophy 160 (Logic) ^{were} was added to the curriculum, and course numbers for the other courses were changed: Introduction to Philosophy became Phil. 150 and Ethics became Phil. 170. Dr. Levinsohn was replaced by Dr. O.J. Wilson (Ed.D., University of Kentucky) who taught philosophy for the Fall semester of the 1963-64 school year. One new course, Phil. 401 (Survey of Philosophy) was added while the course in Biblical Literature was dropped.

Inasmuch as no philosophy department had been formed, the philosophy teachers, from 1963-66, were for administrative purposes officially listed as members of the English department. The college catalogs for those years listed the offerings in philosophy separately under the heading, The Instructional Area of Philosophy.

In June of 1964, Dr. Ronald H. Nash (Ph.D., Syracuse) assumed responsibility for the courses in philosophy. Two new courses, Phil. 250 (Ancient

and Medieval Philosophy) and Phil. 251 (Modern Philosophy) were added and the Survey of Philosophy Course was changed to Phil. 301-401 (Readings in Philosophy). Through the 1964-65 school year, no major or minor in philosophy was offered.

At the beginning of the 1965-66 school year, two significant changes took place. A philosophy minor was added to the curriculum and for the first time, the college had two full-time philosophers on its faculty. Dr. Nash was joined by Dr. Jerald Richards (Ph.D., Boston). Dr. Vernon Martin of the government department ^{also} taught two government courses that earned philosophy credit, viz., Govt. (or Phil.) 332 (Early Political Philosophy) and Govt. (Phil.) 333 (Modern Political Philosophy). Four other courses were added: Phil. 171 (Aesthetics), Phil. 260 (Philosophy of Religion), Phil. 302 (Contemporary Philosophy) and Phil. 330 (Philosophy of Science). However, these courses were not actually taught until the 1966-67 school year.

In the Fall of 1966, the Department of Philosophy was officially organized and the department was authorized to begin offering a philosophy major. The first head of the department was Dr. Ronald Nash, Associate Professor of Philosophy. A third full-time man, Dr. John Stahl (Ph.D., Boston) was added to the department. One new course, Phil. 399 (Research in Philosophy) was added as a requirement for all departmental majors. The major consisted of 25 hours in philosophy ^{and} with Phil. 150, 160, 251, 302 and 399 required. In June of 1967, the department graduated its first majors. ^{The minor required 15 hours}

During the Spring of 1967, the university was awarded a Danforth Foundation grant to establish several courses in the area of religious studies. In line with the university's decision to offer courses in religion, the department of philosophy was reorganized during the Summer of 1967 and became the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Dr. Ronald Nash continued as department head. Several new additions were made to the faculty: Dr. Robert Mounce

(Ph.D., Aberdeen) came as the university's first professor of religious studies, Dr. Roy Butler (Ph.D., Boston) came as Associate Professor of Philosophy, Dr. Dewey Vass (Ph.D., Chicago) came as Visiting Professor of Philosophy to replace for one year Dr. Richards who was granted a year's leave of absence to pursue post-doctoral research at Harvard under a grant from the Danforth Foundation. Dr. Lerond Curry (Ph.D., Florida State) came to teach part-time in the area of religious studies. While no minor or major in religion was to be offered during 1967-68, five courses in religion were added: Religion 100 (The New Testament: Its Background and Literature), Religion 101 (The Old Testament: Its Background and Literature), Religion 200 (Religions of the World), Religion 300 (The Life of Christ) and Religion 320 (The Christian Faith). These courses were accepted as fulfilling the general education requirements in Humanities in the three curricula of the university.

With the increased demand for courses and the growth of the department, several changes and additions were made in the philosophy courses. Phil. 150 and 250 were dropped and the material formerly taught in these courses became the content of Phil. 100 (Introduction to Philosophy: History). Another introductory course, Phil. 101 (Introduction to Philosophy: Problems) was added as were several other new courses: Phil. 405 (Existentialism), Phil. 316 (Symbolic Logic), Phil. 420 (Philosophy of History), Phil. 440 (Metaphysics and Epistemology) and Phil. 450 (Philosophy and Religion of the Middle Ages). With the university's adoption of a new course numbering system, numbers for other courses were changed. Logic became 110, Ethics became 120, Aesthetics became 210, Modern Philosophy became 300, Philosophy

of Religion became 310, Contemporary Philosophy became 400, Readings in Philosophy became 401 and 501, Philosophy of Science became 430 and Research in Philosophy became 499. The 1967 catalog listed requirements for the philosophy major as 25 hours including 100, 110, 300, 400 and 499. Requirements for the minor were 18 hours including 100, 110, 300 and 400.

*Dr. Joseph Richard ^{of the dept.} received a Distinguished
Fellowship grant to pursue post-
doctoral research during 1967-1968*

Class

*The no. of majors graduated each year is as
follows:*