

**Johann Rupp**

**Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal**

**Title: Western Intellectual Tradition**

I wish to pursue a chronological study of the western intellectual tradition. This course of study would include elements of philosophy, literature, and religion. The rationale behind this major runs as follows. At my previous educational institution, St. John's College, I began a course of study that would have covered the great works of western literature, philosophy, and theology. Having completed half of this program at St. John's, I would like to complete the process at Hendrix. I would like to continue my education in the previously mentioned fields, continuing chronologically from where I left off. The end of this study would be for me to gain an understanding of the development of western thought. I have three main reasons for pursuing this major. The first is that I would like to continue in the course of study I have been on for the last two years. The education I received at St. John's began a process in me that I would like to see brought to an end. The second reason I would like to pursue this major can best be summed up in the Hendrix motto, "unto the whole person." I believe that an education should include all dimensions of a person. It seems reasonable then that a liberal arts education should include all the faculties, that is the mind, the heart, and the soul. I would like to include all three of these dimensions. If I were to study only two of the three fields, for example philosophy and religion, I think an important aspect of the development of western thought and culture would be left out, as well as an important aspect of my humanity. My third reason for pursuing this course of study is the strong foundation I believe it will give me for any further study I would like to accomplish. By studying the progress of western thought, I have been and will be exposed to numerous great ideas. By analyzing these great ideas, I will learn to think critically and imaginatively, giving me the ability to pursue graduate studies in numerous different fields.

**Major Classes Taken: (Transfer Credit)**

Freshman Seminar 1 – Greek Literature and Philosophy

Freshman Seminar 2 – Greek Literature and Philosophy

Sophomore Seminar 1 – Roman Literature and Philosophy, Bible, Medieval Theology

Sophomore Seminar 2 – Christian Theology, Medieval Literature, Renaissance Literature, Early

Enlightenment Philosophy

Sophomore Language 2 – English Literature (Shakespeare, English Lyric Poetry)

**Proposed Major Classes:**

PHIL 302 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy

PHIL 306 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy

REL 231 Modern Christianity Since Reformation

ENGL 320 18<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature

ENGL 462 US Nineteenth Century: Great Books Then And Now

**Capstone:**

Research paper on a idea spanning all three of these fields. This paper will be graded by all the members of the supervisory committee. The capstone project will be completed independently and will not be considered a class.

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Fred Ablondi

Signature:



Dr. Alice Hines

Signature:

