



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

PAR 108 • Austin, Texas 78712-1164

August 30, 1985

TO: Members of the English Department
FROM: The E. 346K Committee

The E. 346K Committee met during the summer to examine the English requirement and the role of E. 346K in that requirement. This committee, appointed by the Chairman, asked some very basic questions about what we, as a department, can and should do in teaching writing and literature at the University of Texas.

We agreed on the following principles:

- 1) We must staff our courses with faculty and graduate students without hiring additional temporary faculty. (Dean King has stated explicitly that he will not endorse any proposal that requires the hiring of additional temporary faculty.)
- 2) We should attempt to maintain a nine-hour English requirement that includes two writing courses.
- 3) We should continue to have broad involvement of our faculty in lower-division writing and literature classes.
- 4) We should provide our graduate students the opportunity to teach writing courses with a variety of approaches.
- 5) We should assume a leadership role in the teaching of writing and literature on our campus, in our state, and in the nation, but we should not think that we can, by ourselves, solve the writing and literacy problems of our culture. We should develop a lower-division writing and literature program that is recognized as among the best in the nation and one that meets the needs of the students at the University of Texas. We also should increase our efforts to support the teaching of literacy in the schools of Texas and in other departments on this campus.

Our proposal proceeds from these principles. Level One retains the present E. 306 requirement, but asks students to satisfy that requirement before taking English Department writing courses. We recognize the tradition of excellence in the teaching and administering of this course, but we believe that departmental energies will be used more effectively in this new program.

Level Two offers three new writing courses in addition to E. 346K. The first, "Topics in Writing," will give all faculty members the opportunity to design a writing course. We see this course as an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to work together on special topics. The other new courses, "The Writing Process" and "Thinking and Writing," are intended to be state-of-the-art courses from a rhetorical perspective. They are designed to introduce graduate students to current research and theory in the teaching of writing.

The plan for Level Two accomplishes three of the original aims of the E. 346K proposal. First, it allows students to receive credit for writing courses taught in other departments. Second, it enables students to transfer equivalent lower-division writing courses from other institutions. Third, it gives graduate students the opportunity to teach writing courses above E. 306.

Level Three reaffirms the role of E. 325M as a rigorous, advanced writing course, and continues E. 379C as a course for developing specialized topics in writing.

The committee unanimously supports this new program. We believe that it will provide intellectually stimulating writing courses, allow a variety of approaches, involve faculty and graduate students in new forms of cooperation, and offer a program in writing which builds on the strengths of our department.

This proposal will be discussed in a department meeting on Wednesday, September 11, from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. and, if necessary, in another meeting on Friday, September 13, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. A mail ballot will be distributed and the voting deadline will be 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 18, 1985.

Joseph E. Kruppa, Chairman
Jerome Bump
Lester Faigley
Alan Gribben
Charles Rossman
W.O.S. Sutherland, ex officio

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS (AND ADVANCED WRITING COURSES):

SEQUENCE AND APPROACH

This program presumes the continuation of a nine-hour English requirement. Three required hours will be satisfied by E.306, three hours by an additional composition course, and three hours by E.316K.

LEVEL ONE (THREE HOURS REQUIRED)

E.306 RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION. Satisfied by examination, by transfer, by a summer course at U.T., or by a course taken through U.T. extension. ("Examination" here refers to either a minimal score of 550 on the ECT or another examination certified by the English Department.)

LEVEL TWO (SIX HOURS REQUIRED--Everyone chooses a composition course from category A and everyone also takes one of the variants in B.)

- A. A second composition course. This requirement may be satisfied either by any of the four following English courses or by writing courses in other departments.

These English Department composition courses fall into two general types: 1) courses that stress writing about readings in subject-matter areas; and 2) courses that stress the processes and strategies of writing itself. Both types require several essays totaling 6,000 words or more, and both involve explicit instruction in writing (in class and in conferences with students). For both types, analysis of the readings would examine the writer's purpose, rhetorical strategies, and assumptions about an audience. Only one of these courses may be counted toward graduation requirements.

The four "Level Two" English Department composition courses are:

E.311 TOPICS IN WRITING. A course exploring and writing about varying subjects devised each semester by individual instructors and approved by the department. Topics may be in the history of ideas or of literature, or in current issues. Offered in both regular and "special" sections (the latter version for students who place out of E.306 by examination.) Prerequisite: E.306.

(Models for the course might be Plan II seminars, Humanities special topics courses, and current English topics courses. Readings would be reduced to allow for emphasis on writing. Probably several variants would establish themselves as regular offerings: Literature variant, Humanities variant, Popular Culture variant, Mexican-American variant, and Research Writing variant, as examples.)

E.313 THE WRITING PROCESS. A "workshop" course focusing on the processes of writing. Students are given intensive practice in discovering ideas, drafting, critiquing a draft, revising, and editing. Most writing assignments will be revised in response to the comments of the instructor and other students in the class. Offered in regular and special sections. Prerequisite: E.306.

E.315 THINKING AND WRITING. A course designed to teach students how to read, analyze, and write arguments. Students will examine types of claims, kinds of support, the nature of evidence, paths of inference, ways of convincing readers, and sources of credibility. Offered in regular and special sections. Prerequisite: E.306.

E.346K. WRITING IN DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES. Two versions: Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences. Expository writing appropriate to a discipline, related to readings both technical and humanistic. Prerequisite: At least fifty-four semester hours of credit, including E.306 and E.316K.

B. E.316K. MASTERWORKS OF LITERATURE. Offered in three versions: World, American, English. Prerequisite: At least twenty-seven semester hours of credit, including E.306.

LEVEL THREE (Advanced Electives)

Upper-division electives for students who seek additional training in writing:

E.325M. ADVANCED EXPOSITORY WRITING. Designed for students in the humanities and the social sciences who feel the need to improve and extend their skills in expository writing. Prerequisite: Level two courses and at least thirty semester hours of credit.

E.379C. TOPICS IN COMPOSITION. A course exploring and writing about a special subject devised each semester by individual instructors and approved by the department. Recent topics include: Article Writing, How to Write about Culture, Resources for Writers, Writing for the Professions, and How to Write about American Culture. Proposed future topics include: Editorial Techniques, Book Reviewing, and Reviewing in the Arts. Prerequisite: Level two courses and at least thirty semester hours of credit.