

Course may be dropped due to inadequate staffing

By **HOWARD DECKER**
Daily Texan Staff

English 346K, a course now required for all students to graduate, may be discontinued after this semester.

William Sutherland, chairman of the Department of English, has recommended the course be dropped because the department cannot adequately staff the class.

"What we have discussed with the administration is the fact that

the original University Council legislation that set up 346K simply gave us too much to do," Sutherland said Tuesday. "I told them, 'Let's stop right now before it's too late and see what we can do. This course costs over a million dollars a year, and in the midst of this budget crunch, let's make sure what we're doing.'"

The Spring 1985 Course Catalogue lists 82 sections of English 346K — Writing for Different Disciplines. Sutherland said the number

of 346K sections would increase to more than 100 in the fall if the course is continued.

"As we look down the road, I don't see how we can staff these classes," Sutherland said.

The course was established under the 1983-1985 catalogue in the fall of 1984 to help upper-division students increase their writing skills in certain areas pertaining to their fields. To accomplish this, the

course was divided into three topics: arts and humanities, natural science and technology, and sociology and behavior.

"When the English department made its recommendation (to establish the class), it recommended that students that transfer in composition courses after 306 not have to take 346," Sutherland said. "But the legislation that passed said all students, for graduation, must take 346K."

The 346K requirement created a new English sequence for all students. Students under the 1983-1985 catalogue are required to take E306, E316K and E346K. In effect, every student graduating from the University under that catalogue must take these classes.

"This department teaches more required courses than any other ma-

ior university that is comparable to us," Sutherland said. "We really are doing a lot more. In 316K, we have 6,500 students alone."

Sutherland also said he requested the course elimination because of problems getting students in the topic that would benefit them the most.

"The logistics of registration have worked to undermine the original content of the course," Sutherland said. "This was to be writing across the disciplines, but what happened is that students have taken variants that fit their schedules. So the course is not really what it was originally meant to be."

Gayla Barker-Hayes, a secondary education-journalism sophomore enrolled in the arts and humanities section this semester, said that although she did not particularly en-

joy the class, it was interesting.

"I think there's a big degree of review in that you repeat a lot of stuff you've done before and you write a lot more than any class I've had before," Barker-Hayes said. "I think it's important. It's not enjoyable, but it is a basic. I'm still learning a lot of stuff I haven't learned before."

No final decision has been made regarding Sutherland's request. Robert King, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, to whom Sutherland made his request, left town Tuesday and was unavailable for comment.

Sutherland said he does not know when the decision may come or what will replace the existing course. "We must know soon, because it affects our staffing (for next semester)," he said.

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