

Dribben

I M M E D I A T E A T T E N T I O N P L E A S E

30 April 1980

To: Task Force on Composition

From: Joseph J. Moldenhauer, Chairman *jm*

Subject: Draft Outline of Core Proposal; Thursday Meeting

We met until 5 p.m. yesterday, Tuesday. If you had to leave earlier, or if (1 person) you were unable to attend, the tape is in my office.

Barring catastrophe, we'll meet again on Thursday, same time, same place, to talk about fall-back positions, strategies of presentation to the department, and departmental voting procedures.

Please review carefully and at once the enclosed outline, which represents my best sense of the compromise hammered out yesterday, plus the related details on which there had not been disagreement. Please advise me before Thursday noon of your response to this core plan, using the tear-slip below. Unless there is significant erosion of support for this core, it will go out to the Department on Thursday afternoon for presentation at a Monday departmental meeting. Following our Thursday meeting we can try to distribute, as supplementary materials bearing on the Monday departmental meeting(s), such brief rationales for separate parts of the package, or for all of it.

DRAFT



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MEMORANDUM

To: Department of English
From: Joseph J. Moldenhauer, Chairman
Subject: Proposals on Composition and English Requirements

The task force on Composition, building on the work of the study teams, on departmental discussions both before and after those teams were formed, and on presentations by all interested teaching staff to the deliberations of the study teams, has developed the following basic proposals. They will be discussed by the Department in meetings scheduled for Monday, 5 May, from 9-12 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. in Parlin 203. If further discussion is needed, an attempt will be made to schedule additional meetings that week. The task force proposes that the final vote of the department be conducted by mail ballot, the ballots to be due for counting two weeks after the end of departmental discussion of the plan in plenary session.

Basic Proposals (presented as a package):

- I. The following courses would be eliminated or superseded: E307 (regular and special), E308 (regular and special), E310, E314K, E317. The following courses would be retained but would not satisfy degree requirements, and their prerequisite changed to three hours of English (E306): E314L, E318M.
- II. Degree Requirements (recommended for all colleges): 9 hours of English, as at present in most colleges. Plan II requirements unchanged.
- III. Admissions and Enrollment
 - A. Entering students must enroll by April 22, or earlier deadline if practicable. I.e., entering students must accept UT admissions offer by that date.
 - B. Entering students must submit by enrollment deadline their results on the English placement instrument for E306.
 - C. If enrollments of freshman and lower-division transfers continue to climb beyond 1980-1981, the Department will request the President to raise entrance requirements.
- IV. General prerequisites for upper-division English courses (except new course, "Writing in Different Disciplines") reduced from 9 to 6 hours of English. See third-level courses below.

V. Courses and Sequence

A. E306: Rhetoric and Composition

1. Content: readings, as presently, in various disciplines; attention to rhetorical strategies, to mechanics, and to linguistic elements. Detailed syllabus for AIs; faculty encouraged to work up own materials, with minimum core of expectations to preserve course integrity. Variant readings for Mexican-American sections (as at present) and Black sections, with election of these sections at student's option.
2. Exemptions: SAT Verbal 530 (credit with B) and SAT Verbal 575 (credit with A) cutting scores. These cutting scores would exempt approximately 30% of the present freshman population from E306.
3. Nature and amount of writing: 6-7 major themes based on rhetorical strategies. Emphasis on analytical writing; some experiential writing permitted. Panel grading to be investigated.
4. Class size and format: normal sections with maximum of 25 students, as at present; experimental formats (e.g., large section) invited, as at present, under supervision of FEPC.
5. Remedial students: E506 for SAT Verbal below 353 (bottom 5%) and E406 for SAT Verbal 353-380 (next 10%): these students would take normal sections of E306 but be referred for two hours weekly and one hour weekly respectively, to a Writing Center in the English Department. The Writing Center can be staffed by six qualified persons at 100% appointment (need not be positions defined as "faculty").
6. Foreign Students: E306Q as at present for students with TOEFL of 550; investigation of new Q courses for students with TOEFL 500-550 and low SAT Verbal.
7. Sections offered: roughly equal numbers of E306 sections in fall and spring semesters, by prearrangement with Dean and President, to prevent fall semester overload on departmental resources.

B. E31__ : Masterworks of Literature (new course)

1. Prerequisites: minimum of 27 hours (sophomore standing), including E306 by course, transfer credit, or placement exemption.
2. Content: readings in one of three alternative subject areas - World Masterworks, English Masterworks, American Masterworks. Probably anthology courses, details of curriculum to be developed by individual instructor after basic courses are outlined by curriculum committee and approved by English Department. Introduction to major works in the literary tradition, with emphasis on historical, generic, and thematic connections, and attention to the cultural conventions informing individual works. Syllabus for AIs teaching course first time.

3. Exemptions: machine-gradable, content-focused examination to be devised by department and administered by MEC; cutting score to be determined.
 4. Class size and format: normal sections with maximum of 40 students (as presently with most E314K); experimental formats, especially large-section, invited, under supervision of SLPC.
 5. Nature and amount of writing; evaluation: tests (essay, short-answer, and multiple choice) and papers, in variable proportions and numbers, as presently in E314K and E312L/M; guidelines to be developed by SLPC, as presently for E314K.
 6. Foreign students: Q sections or alternative courses to be investigated.
 7. Sections offered: Fall-Spring balance to be determined by distribution of staff capability in other courses, especially E306.
- C. E32 OR ~~choice of from among selected upper-division English courses~~ OR alternative writing course in other department approved by English Department. Third-course requirements to be determined by the individual colleges.
1. E32 : Writing in Different Disciplines (new course).
 - a. Prerequisites: 54 hours (junior standing), including E306 and E31 (B, above), by course, transfer credit, or placement exemption.
 - b. Content: to be offered in three versions, Writing in the Arts and Humanities, Writing in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Writing in the Natural Sciences and Technology. Readings to include classic and contemporary expository essays and books in these disciplines, and some selections which concern the social, ethical, and philosophical aspects of the disciplines. Sample course outlines to be developed by committee; syllabus for AI sections.
 - c. Exemptions: SAT Verbal 576 and above (credit with A) cutting score: exempts top ca. 15%. Transfer credit for a composition course beyond E306 satisfies this requirement.
 - d. Nature and amount of writing: ca. 6 major themes, chiefly analytical; experimentation encouraged. Panel grading to be investigated.
 - e. Class size and format: normal sections with maximum of 25 students (as presently with E310, 317, 325, 325M); experimental formats possible, under supervision of course committee.
 - f. Foreign students: Q sections of one or more of the three versions to be devised by committee.

or 2. ~~Choice of one of a list of upper-division English courses, other than E32 , chosen by the Undergraduate Course Committee.~~

- a. This list would include current upper-division writing courses (e.g., E325, E325M, 360X), current upper-division literature courses, and current upper-division language courses, plus some new courses, for example, Medieval, Renaissance, and Neoclassical Literature (replaces E312L content) and Romantic, Victorian, and Modern Literature (replaces E312M content). An important criterion for the UCC's selection of courses which can satisfy this requirement will be the presence in the course plan of significant amounts of student writing. It is currently the case that most upper-division courses include amounts of writing adequate to satisfy this criterion.
- b. Prerequisites: 30 hours, including E306 and 31__ (B, above), by course, transfer credit, or placement exam. NOTE THAT GENERAL PREREQUISITE FOR UPPER-DIVISION ENGLISH COURSES CHANGES from "9 hours of English" to, in effect, 6 hours of English, including the required sophomore course, and sophomore standing. "Writing in Different Disciplines" requires 6 hours of English but junior standing.

or 2. Writing content course developed by other department and approved by English Department as satisfying this third-level requirement.

Such courses would presumably have E306 and E31__ as prerequisite, and thus would be taken by the student no earlier than the second half of the sophomore year. Exemptions also subject to approval of English Department.

Colleges that might be interested in developing such courses include Communications (7% of UT matriculations) and Business (23%).

Ancillary Proposals
(presented for separate vote)

- A. Reduce course load for temporary Instructors on 100% appointment to 3 courses per semester.
- B. Encourage AIs and regular faculty from other departments to teach sections of "Writing in Different Disciplines," providing appropriate training and supervision.
- C. To the extent permitted by course enrollments, overall staff capability, TLC calculations, and staffing demands of graduate, upper-division, and specialized courses, assign no more than one section of E306 or 32__ (Writing in Different Disciplines) per semester to tenure or tenure-seeking faculty, and no more than two sections of E306 or 32__ per semester to temporary Instructors.

- D. Provide more systematic supervision of AIs and TAs if regular faculty energies can be released for this purpose by reduction of staffing needs in required English courses.
- E. Develop 12-week long versions of E306, E406, E506 for summer session students.
- F. Develop in outline form a version of E32__ (Writing in Different Disciplines) for Business-oriented students, to be submitted at a later date for departmental approval.
- G. Refine placement criteria for E306 and E32__ (Writing in Different Disciplines) in consultation with Measurement and Evaluation Center.
- H. Request workload weighting of 3-hour organized writing courses (composition at any undergraduate level, creative writing) at 4.5 TLC.