

New elective composition course to become requirement in fall '88

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The Department of English will offer a new elective writing course next fall that eventually will be required of all students, a University professor said Thursday.

Joseph Kruppa, associate professor of English, said the new course, English 309, will be "a more advanced and sophisticated course" than English 306, freshman composition.

The course will be "phased into" the University slowly, Kruppa said. The course will be an elective until the fall of 1988, when it will be one of the required English courses, he said.

"Our department is flexible enough to wait until the fall of 1989 if we have any problems with the course," Kruppa said.

Once E 309 becomes a required course, students will be expected to prove their proficiency in E 306 through placement tests, Kruppa said. Students who do not place out of E 306 will enroll in basic non-credit writing courses that will

be offered by the English department.

Kruppa said skills learned in E 306 should be taught in high schools or other institutions. About 40 percent of University students place out of the course, he said.

Kruppa said E 309 will focus on several topics, such as composition in "great books" or popular culture in composition.

E 309 will give instructors more variety on the topics and subjects they teach in the writing class, Kruppa said.

Alan Gribben, associate professor of English, agreed.

"E 306 has a flatly designed approach. There was only one way to teach it and we all did it," Gribben said. "With this course, teachers can be more creative and teach the things in which they are interested."

Kruppa also said E 309 will be better for students than E 306 because they will be able to register in a section covering topics in which they are interested.

Gribben said E 309 will give students a stronger writing background than E 306.

Gribben said the current English writing lab will be changed to a writing center where students will be given "crash courses" in areas of writing deficiency. Gribben said the center will give writing diagnostic tests to help students determine the areas in which they need help.

Kruppa said the department will work with state high schools to help them understand what the University is offering and what students need to be prepared for courses at the University.

Kitty Cotton, head counselor at Lyndon B. Johnson High School, said some LBJ students might have problems placing out of E 306, although the high school does offer an advanced placement English course.

"Some of our kids will have a problem, but most of the kids that are going to major colleges and universities should do OK," Cotton said.

Writing contacts should be made with the English department.