

# English proposal awaits council approval

*Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series examining proposed changes in the English department.*

**By SUZANNE TAYLOR**  
Daily Texan Staff

The great debate over English course realignments has waxed and waned during the past two years, but what are its practical results?

What can University students now expect from their English department and what will it expect from them?

■ E 306 — Students will be able to take this freshman course during the long session for at least the next two years, from the fall of 1986 through the spring of 1988. Joseph Kruppa, chairman of the English committee that authored the proposed changes to English requirements, said the department would like to have E 306 totally phased out by the fall of 1988.

The course will remain a requirement for graduation, so students who do not place out of the course (40 percent of entering freshman

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currently place out), will have to satisfy the requirement by transfer, a UT summer course or a UT extension course. As E 306 is phased out, E 309 will be phased in.

■ E 309 — This will be a freshman-level composition course with three variations, designed to provide students with a greater choice for the required English writing

course, said Lance Bertelsen, assistant professor of English. The course will be taught by both English department faculty and graduate students.

Bertelsen, who has helped develop the possible E 309 variances, said the 10 pilot sections to be offered this fall could look as follows:

● E 309K — Topics in Writing —

Two variations being considered are Writing about Interrelationships of Arts and Sciences and Writing About Culture and Society.

● E 309L — The Writing Process — A workshop approach would be used to allow students intensive practice in a collective approach to writing, revising, critiquing and peer editing.

● E 309M — Thinking and Writing — Argumentation would be the main focus of this class, which would take a formal approach emphasizing final results.

■ E 346K — This upper-division course in technical composition, Writing in Different Disciplines, is gone along with the lecturers. University deans suspended the course for one year in February of 1985 and dropped it permanently this February.

Approximately 70 lecturers taught freshman-level courses and E 346K through spring 1985, when their one-year contracts were not renewed. Less than 10 lecturers remain in the English department.

In sum, the English department graduation requirements will consist of proficiency or credit in E 306, credit for one version of E 309, and credit for E 316K, *Masterworks of Literature*, which remains unchanged.

Most colleges still will require, in addition, two upper-division courses with a substantial writing component. These can be taken through the English department or through identified courses in other schools and colleges.

The above (excluding the deletion of E 346K) are the essentials of a proposal that was hammered out by Kruppa and his five-member committee last summer. The proposal was approved by the English department last September by a 3-to-1 margin (53 to 18).

Robert King, liberal arts dean, approved the proposal after the Liberal Arts Courses in Curriculum committee approved it unanimously.

All that remains is for the University Council to approve individual

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colleges' rewritten English requirements, which likely will be written in accordance with the English department changes.

"It is unlikely that the University Council would overrule what each individual college sets as its requirements," said H. Paul Kelley, University Council secretary. "And it is not very likely that a college would list as a requirement a course that is not being taught at the University."

James Kinneavy, professor of English and a vocal critic of the changes, introduced a motion at a University Council meeting March 17 to have the "whole writing program seriously scrutinized by a University-wide committee." The motion was tabled after lengthy debate.

The Students' Association adopted a resolution March 4 opposing any plan to immediately eliminate E 306.

Results from a Students' Association December 1985 poll showed 69 percent of students who had just completed E 306 did not consider it a remedial course, and 95 percent either agreed or strongly agreed — on a five point scale — the University should teach E 306 if it is required for graduation.

Though the framework for English department changes is essentially set, the logistics for enacting those changes remains in flux — and open for more debate.

*Part two will examine the problems involved in applying the new changes and the continuing debate.*

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