

Freshman course may be dropped

By DEBRA MULLER

Daily Texan Staff

By fall 1986, at least 4,000 freshman students may be forced to look outside the University or attend summer school to fulfill a graduation requirement if the University approves an English department committee proposal.

A Department of English committee has developed a proposal that maintains the nine-hour English requirement for students, but requires that the first course in the sequence, E 306, be taken elsewhere.

The E 346K committee, appointed by department Chairman William Sutherland, met during the summer to examine the University writing program.

The proposal, distributed to English faculty members Friday, makes several changes in the sequence of required English course. Currently, students are required to take E 306, a freshman rhetoric and composition course; E 316K, a literature course; and E 346K, an upper division composition course.

E 346K has been postponed for a year, and students now are required to take an approved alternative course.

The committee has proposed students fulfill six hours by taking E 306, or the equivalent, and E 316K. Students can take either E 346K or one of three new lower-division composition courses for the final three hours, under the proposal.

But although E 306 will remain a graduation requirement, the committee proposed the course be satisfied only by examination, by transfer, by a summer course at the University or by a course taken through UT extension, taught under the UT Division of Continuing Education.

About 40 percent of entering freshmen place out of E 306 by examination, said Joseph Kruppa, E 346K committee chairman and English Department associate chairman. He said the department projects 4,000 freshmen will be required to

take the course during the 1985-1986 school year.

Kruppa said the English department needs to refocus its efforts and concentrate on more advanced courses. The department cannot teach E 306, E 316K and E 346K without hiring many temporary staff members, Kruppa said.

"It was a matter of what can we do best as a department," Kruppa said. "We tried to teach too many people, too many classes. Perhaps we stretched ourselves too thin."

Kruppa said the committee would like the changes to take effect in the fall of 1986, but the proposal requires approval of deans and the University Council. The new requirements would replace the current requirements, and affect current students as well as freshmen entering under a new catalog, Kruppa said.

Kruppa said the courses offered through UT extension will be comparable to the E 306 course taught in the past, because the same syllabus and books will be used and the staff will be approved by the English department.

"The courses at extension will be perfectly valid," Kruppa said. "We are not encouraging students to take it in some awful way."

James Kinneavy, a professor of English, said it was "inexcusable" to turn over such a large program to an agency which has no disciplinary English training and is not controlled administratively by the English department.

"They want to farm them out to extension," Kinneavy said. "They are really not interested in what happens to the students at all. They just washed their hands of the whole freshman program."

But Kruppa disagreed, saying, "We didn't cancel freshman English, we restructured the sequence." Kruppa said the department will focus on three new advanced freshman courses included in the proposal.

See E 306, page 15

E 306

Continued from page 1

Kruppa said he believed the educational reforms in high schools should provide students with a more solid English background, and more students should begin placing out of E 306.

But Kinneavy said the reforms would not cause any major changes for six or seven years. "We cannot expect a whole lot from the high schools for some time," he said.

Kruppa said requiring more preparation from high school students is a valid request.

"We can't be just a complete open door," Kruppa said. "I think there should be one public institution in the state that does that."

Kinneavy said a basic freshman composition course is "critical in all of the higher institutions" because students have a severe need for reading and writing training.

"I frankly think they need 306,"

Kinneavy said. "The level of literacy achievement in the high schools of Texas is among the worst in the nation."

Kinneavy also said the proposal addresses the literary and research interests of the professors rather than the interests of undergraduate students.

"All four of the courses neglect the professional interests of students at UT," Kinneavy said.

Kruppa said Robert King, dean of liberal arts, was in favor of the proposal, and that King could step in and approve the proposal if the English department is in disagreement or votes against it.

King said Monday he was in favor of what he had heard about the proposal, but declined to comment further until he had fully reviewed the proposal.

Inspection fee raised