

CONTENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan I.

General Description: A nine-hour university requirement of a composition course in the freshman year, a literature with composition in the sophomore year, and a writing in the specific discipline in the junior year.

Course Sequence Details:

E 306 "Rhetoric and Composition." Freshman year.

- a. Content: Readings in the humanities, rhetorical strategies, linguistic elements for mechanics.
- b. Logistics: Exemptions: Upper 30% (same as present, but use the SAT-Verbal to avoid last minute congestion).
--Panel grading.
--Remedial 406 and 506 for lowest 10 and 5% students (in a Writing Center; on drop-in basis, with permanent staff and faculty in English required; to accommodate 600 students).
--Experimentation with different readings: essay; literary; E603a, b; E312L, M; E314K; E307; E308; etc.
- c. Curriculum: 6-7 major themes; persuasion, induction, deduction, definition, library, etc. Major emphasis on analytical, some experiential themes.

E 316 "Literature and Composition." Sophomore year.

- a. Content: The best course in introduction to literature the department can devise. If literary readings work out in E 306, could be a sequence to 306 from literary content.
- b. Logistics: Exemptions: AP with a score of 4 or 5; CLEP as presently administered. Nursing and Fine Arts not exempted.
--Class size: 40
--Literature courses in other departments allowed to substitute if on more than a translation level (some analysis required in the compositions).
- c. Curriculum: A history, genre, theme unity be required in each course. Experimentation encouraged.

E 326 "Writing in Different Disciplines." Junior year.

- a. Content: Four different contents (science, social science, humanities, business). 78% of the respondents in the Sledd-Hereford survey indicated they wanted such a course. Intelligible prose for the general reader: unifies the university in a common tongue. Readings: classical and contemporary.
- b. Logistics: Exemptions--top 15% of SAT-Verbal (saves 900), transfers with two composition courses; junior level saves 1000; other departments with their own course: E325M, 500 students.
- c. Curriculum: ca. 6 themes; experimentation encouraged.

Advantages of Plan I: Gives a literary requirement to all colleges (1 semester if only 316 works out, 2 semesters if literary readings work in 306); gives university a content specific composition course; puts English at heart of each of first three years' program; insures writing at each year except senior; maintains tradition of liberal arts; saves at least 100 sections (and thus eliminates present pool); transfers exemption criteria to English department; uses other departments for AI's and faculty.

Plan II.

General Description: The present 3-course structure (2 freshman/1 sophomore). First course, composition; second course, composition and literature; third course, literature. Institution of writing lab. Fourth course (upper-division) recommended for colleges not now requiring 4 lower-division courses.

Course Sequence Details:

E 306 Composition

- a. Content: a writing course that trains students in rhetorical, linguistic, and analytical skills
- b. Logistics: exempts the present 28%, but uses SAT-Verbal; provides Writing Lab for lower 10%; experimental sections to seek best reading
- c. Curriculum: humanities readings as substantial as 90% of the students can handle, including some selections that exhibit the development and persistence of classical models (e.g., from Portable Greek Reader)

E 307 Rhetoric and Literature

- a. Content: a course that (a) advances writing skills and (b) introduces students to skills of analytical reading, analysis and interpretation; these purposes receive equal emphasis
- b. Logistics: current exemption policy; sections of this course may be offered by other humanities departments; maintains class size of present 307
- c. Curriculum: minimum of six themes (literary and non-literary topics); this course in effect conflates 307 and 314K as now offered; suggested texts: composition texts as required; i-vol. edition of Norton World Masterpieces.

E 314K Masterworks of English and American Literature

- a. Content: a survey emphasizing the understanding of major literary works in biographical, historical, and generic contexts.
- b. Logistics: a lecture course; large sections; exemption only by rigorous examination; some experimental sections that retain general spirit of the course.

- c. Curriculum: choice of anthologies and/or selected texts; writing assignments at option of instructor, but students must be rigorously examined on the material they are being asked to learn.

E 326 Writing in Different Disciplines

- a. Content: a writing course at upper-division level for students, including humanities students, who want additional training in writing that is discipline-specific.
- b. Logistics: offered as elective; could be used to satisfy potential university requirement of 12 hours.
- c. Curriculum: minimum of six themes.