

university

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English 346K abolished as deans plan new requirements

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University deans have decided to delete English 346K, the controversial technical writing course, from future course catalogs, a University official said Monday.

"E 346K has been judged to be not viable for colleges or schools to utilize in degree requirements," said Gerhard Fonken, UT vice president for academic affairs.

Joseph Kruppa, professor of English, said the course was suspended last February for the 1985-86 academic year only, but now will be permanently removed from college catalogs.

Kruppa said the Department of English is working to restructure the University's

English requirement.

The department is developing a more "sophisticated" freshman composition course to replace English 306, the current freshman composition course, Kruppa said.

"We're going to start offering pilot sections next fall as an elective course," Kruppa said.

The new course, E 309, should be more interesting to teach and more interesting to take, Kruppa said.

Kruppa said the course will focus on "exploring and writing about various topics approved by the department."

Every college, except the College of Fine Arts, currently requires E 306 for gradua-

tion, he said.

"Fine arts demands its students be proficient in it (E 306) but they don't credit it," Kruppa said. "That's what we're encouraging in the future."

Although actual details are still under discussion, students would be able to choose from three courses — E 309K, E 309L and E 309M — to fulfill the University's freshman English requirement, Kruppa said.

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

E 309L and E 309M will teach "the writing process" and "thinking in writing," Kruppa said.

Students who fail to place out of E 306 would be allowed to participate in computer-assisted instruction or non-credit courses to achieve proficiency in E 306, Kruppa said.

Forty percent of students enrolling in the University place out of E306, he said.

Kruppa said the department also would begin working with state high schools to outline the restructured English requirements.

"They need to be informed we're not going to be there to teach students E 306 anymore," Kruppa said. "They need to teach them (high school students) these skills."

Kruppa said the changes would be "phased in" slowly over the next several years.

"We want to ensure a smooth transition and give everyone involved fair warning of the changes," he said.

Wayne Danielson, professor of journalism, said the proposal will not improve staffing problems in the English department.

"They're just replacing one freshman composition course with another," Danielson said. "They'll still have to staff a freshman composition course for everyone at the University."

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