

Does freshman English exist in the universe? Or UT?

By LORRAINE CADEMARTORI
Daily Texan Staff

Over the past two years, the Department of English has made several changes in its course offerings and requirements. This will affect you, the brand, spanking new freshman college student. How? A detailed explanation follows.

English 306 — As you probably know, this is the freshman English course, required for graduation if you haven't placed out of it — like 60 percent of your classmates — by taking the UT English achievement

test, or by an acceptable score on an advanced placement language composition test. If you have not placed out, you will have to take it during the long semester sessions through the spring of 1988. This means TAKE IT BY SPRING OF YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR. Otherwise, you will have to satisfy the requirement either by transferring credit from another school, taking the course by extension, or taking the course during summer school. By the fall of 1988, the University will be requiring a class it no longer

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Welcome to Big State U.

English 309 — This is a brand new course, and the freshman class of 1986 are the guinea pigs. E 309 will be phased in as E 306 will be phased out, and will be a freshman-level composition course. Different sections will include "Topics in Writing" (culture and society, art and sciences), "The Writing Process," an intensive writing workshop, and "Thinking and Writing," which will focus on argumentation of ideas. One section of E309 course is required for graduation, and students can test out of one section.

English 316K — Masterworks of Literature — This is not a brand

new course, meaning it is old. E 316K has three sections, covering world, American or British literature, and students who score well enough on the Advanced Placement literature test can still test out of this class also.

English 346K — Writing in Different Disciplines — Long before you came to Austin, other students had to complete this course for graduation. Originally designed to help students write competently in their major field or area, the class was suspended for a year on February 1985 and dropped permanently in February 1986.

Many students didn't take the E 346K class which applied to their area (they weren't required to), and took the section which fit their schedule best. You can't place out of this class either, because you can't place out of something that doesn't exist.

Although the Department of English won't be offering E 346K, some

school officials hope various colleges will set up interdisciplinary writing programs to assist their students.

Additionally, most colleges will still require two upper-division courses with a "substantial writing component." The writing component classes can be taken through the student's major departments, through the English department, or through electives. Each semester's course schedule lists the courses which satisfy the writing component requirement.

Why the big overhaul in the English department? A couple of reasons. With budget cuts going into effect and more on the way, the department simply could not afford all the non-tenured faculty (lecturers) needed to teach all the sections of E 306. Also, there was the administrative nightmare of having a two-tiered faculty system in the depart-

ment — one tier consisting of tenured professors and associate and assistant professors and the other of lecturers. Most tenured faculty don't want to have to teach a section of E 306, because it eats into the time they would like to have to teach other, more specialized courses.

Perhaps bigger than the logistical problems, though, are the ones of philosophy. There is a split in the English department between the literature devotees and the apostles of composition.

The current requirements are a compromise between the two factions — it creates a new composition course and gets rid of an old one, while maintaining a basic literature course as well. It will be a few years before the University sees whether the third party involved — the students — are as satisfied with the deal as the other two.

