

PROPOSALS ON COMPOSITION AND ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

(Revised May 9, 1980)

Basic Proposals

(presented as a package)

- I. The following courses would be eliminated or superseded: E307 (regular and special), E308 (regular and special), E310, E312L/M, E314K, E317. The following courses would be retained but would not satisfy degree requirements in lower-division English, and their prerequisite changed to three hours of English (E306): E314L, E318M.
- II. Degree Requirements (recommended for all undergraduate colleges in the University): 9 hours of English, as at present in most colleges. Plan II requirements unchanged.
- III. Admissions and Enrollment
 - A. Entering students must enroll by May 1, or earlier deadline if practicable. I.e., entering students must accept UT admissions offer by that date.
 - B. Entering students must submit by enrollment deadline their results on the English placement instrument for E306.
 - C. If enrollments of freshman and lower-division transfers continue to climb beyond 1980-1981, the Department will request the President to raise entrance requirements.
- IV. General prerequisites for upper-division English courses will be reduced from 9 to 6 hours of English, with two exceptions. The prerequisite for E325M, Advanced Expository Writing, will be E306, E31__ (Masterworks; see V B below) and E3__ (Writing in Different Disciplines; see V C below). The prerequisite for E3__ (Writing in Different Disciplines) will be 54 hours -- junior standing -- including E306 and E31__ (Masterworks); see V C 1 a and c below.
- V. Courses and Sequence
 - A. E306: Rhetoric and Composition
 1. Content: attention to rhetorical strategies, reading comprehension, and mechanics. Detailed syllabus for AIs; faculty encouraged to work up own materials, with minimum core of expectations to preserve course integrity. Variant readings for Mexican-American sections (as at present) and Black sections (to be investigated), with election of these sections at student's option.

2. Exemptions: SAT Verbal 550 (credit with B) and SAT Verbal 575 (credit with A) cutting scores. These cutting scores are slightly more rigorous than the current cutting scores.
3. Nature and amount of writing: 6-7 major themes based on rhetorical strategies. Emphasis on analytical writing; some experiential writing permitted. Panel grading to be investigated.
4. Class size and format: normal sections with maximum of 25 students, as at present; alternative formats (e.g., large section) invited, as at present, under supervision of FEPC.
5. Remedial students: E506 for SAT Verbal below 353 (bottom 5%) and E406 for SAT Verbal 353-380 (next 10%): these students would take normal sections of E306 but be referred for two hours weekly and one hour weekly, respectively, to a Writing Center in the English Department. The Writing Center can be staffed by six qualified persons at 100% appointment (need not be positions defined as "faculty").
6. Foreign Students: E306Q as at present for students with TOEFL of 550; investigation of new Q courses for students with TOEFL 500-549 and low SAT Verbal.
7. Sections offered: roughly equal numbers of E306 sections in fall and spring semesters, by prearrangement with Dean and President, to prevent fall semester overload on departmental resources.

B. E31 : Masterworks of Literature (new course)

1. Prerequisites: minimum of 27 hours (sophomore standing), including E306 by course, transfer credit, or placement exemption.
2. Content: readings in one of three alternative subject areas -- World Masterworks, English Masterworks, American Masterworks. Probably anthology courses, details of curriculum to be developed by individual instructor after basic courses are outlined by curriculum committee and approved by English Department. Introduction to major works in the literary tradition, with emphasis on historical, generic, and thematic connections, and attention to the cultural conventions informing individual works. Syllabus for AIs teaching course first time.
3. Exemptions: AP 4 (credit with B) or 5 (credit with A).
4. Class size and format: normal sections of 40 students (as presently with most E314K); alternative formats, especially large-section, invited, under supervision of SLPC.

5. Nature and amount of writing; evaluation: tests (essay, short-answer, and multiple choice) and papers, in variable proportions and numbers, as presently in E314K and E312L/M; guidelines to be developed by SLPC, as presently for E314K.
 6. Foreign students: Q sections or alternative courses to be investigated.
 7. Sections offered: Fall-Spring balance to be determined by distribution of staff capability in other courses, especially E306.
- C. E3 ___ OR alternative writing course in other department approved by English Department. Third-course requirements to be determined by the individual colleges.
1. E3 ___ : Writing in Different Disciplines (new course).
 - a. Prerequisites: 54 hours (junior standing), including E306 and E31 ___ (B, above), by course, transfer credit, or placement exemption.
 - b. Content: to be offered in three versions, Writing in the Arts and Humanities; Writing in the Social and Behavioral Sciences; Writing in the Natural Sciences and Technology. Readings to include classic and contemporary expository essays and books in these disciplines, and some selections which concern the social, ethical, and philosophical aspects of the disciplines. Sample course outlines to be developed by committee; syllabus for AI sections.
 - c. Exemptions: SAT Verbal 600 (credit with B), 625 (credit with A) cutting scores; will exempt top ca. 10% by 1979-80 figures. Transfer credit for a composition course beyond E306 satisfies this requirement.
 - d. Nature and amount of writing: ca. 6 major themes, chiefly analytical; experimentation encouraged. Panel grading to be investigated.
 - e. Class size and format: normal sections with maximum of 25 students; alternative formats possible, under supervision of course committee.
 - f. Foreign students: Q sections of one or more of the three versions to be devised by committee.
 2. Writing content course developed by any department and approved by English Department as satisfying this third-level requirement.

Such courses would presumably have E306 and E31 ___ as prerequisite, and thus would be taken by the student no earlier than the second

half of the sophomore year. Exemptions also subject to approval of English Department.

Colleges that might be interested in developing such courses include Communications (7% of UT matriculations) and Business (23%).

Ancillary Proposals
(presented for separate vote)

- A. Reduce course load for temporary Instructors on 100% appointment to 3 courses per semester.
- B. Encourage AIs and regular faculty from other departments to teach sections of "Writing in Different Disciplines," providing appropriate training and supervision.
- C. To the extent permitted by course enrollments, overall staff capability, TLC calculations, and staffing demands of graduate, upper-division, and specialized courses, assign no more than one section of E306 or E3____ (Writing in Different Disciplines) per semester to tenured or tenure-seeking faculty, and no more than two sections of E306 or E3____ per semester to temporary Instructors.
- D. Provide more systematic supervision of AIs and TAs if regular faculty energies can be released for this purpose by reduction of staffing needs in required English courses.
- E. Develop 12-week long versions of E306, E406, E506 for summer session students.
- F. Develop in outline form a version of E3____ (Writing in Different Disciplines) for Business-oriented students, to be submitted at a later date for departmental approval.
- G. Refine placement criteria for E306 and E3____ (Writing in Different Disciplines) in consultation with Measurement and Evaluation Center.
- H. Request workload weighting of 3-hour organized writing courses (composition at any undergraduate level, creative writing) at 4.5 TLC.
- I. Assuming major reductions of pressure on departmental teaching resources through the implementation of the basic plan, a reduction to 20 students of the maximum class size for undergraduate writing courses (all composition and creative writing courses) will be requested.

- J. Descriptions of E314L options and prerequisites will be distributed to entering freshmen with placement exemption for E306.
- K. Exemption scores, instruments, and substitute courses for English requirements are to be determined by the English Department.
- L. Faculty in foreign language departments will be encouraged to request teaching assignment for E31 ___, World Masterworks.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

May 9, 1980

BALLOT INFORMATION

Franchise: For voting purposes, this ballot goes to all voting members of the Department as defined in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, Ch. 1, VI, B, paragraphs 1.a and 1.b (pp. 27-28). In brief, voting members are all faculty at the rank of Instructor and above who are on 100% University appointment.

For polling purposes, this ballot goes to all other members of the Department's teaching staff.

Due date: On or before June 2, 1980, at 5:00 p.m.

Instructions: Please vote either "yes" or "no" on the basic plan and on each of the ancillary proposals separately. Abstention on any item should be signalled by not voting "yes" or "no" on that item. Please destroy your ballot if you do not plan to use it. If you vote "no" on the basic plan or on any of the ancillary proposals, you are invited to submit with your ballot an unsigned statement of your objections and your suggestions of changes that would win your assent on the item(s) you find objectionable.

When casting your ballot, please place it in the smaller envelope, place the smaller envelope in the larger one, sign the larger envelope, and give it to Pam Wheeler in PAR 110. If you send in your ballot from out of town, please address the outer envelope to Joseph J. Moldenhauer and allow for postal delay before the deadline for receipt of ballots.

Additional Information: The tape recorded proceedings of the departmental meeting of 5 May are available to be heard by those who were unable to attend. At that meeting many questions were put about the plan, and were answered. Furthermore, the members of the task force will be glad to answer questions about the proposals, whether or not these arose on 5 May.

A copy of the basic plan and ancillary proposals, as revised in the light of the last departmental meeting, is enclosed with this ballot.

All changes made from the draft dated 1 May 1980 and discussed by the Department on 5 May 1980 are listed on the next page.

MEMORANDUM

For the purpose of this report, the following definitions are used: ...

For the purpose of this report, the following definitions are used: ...

Date: October 15, 1960, 11:00 AM

Please note that "yes" or "no" on the ballot is not an indication of the ballot's position ...

When casting your ballot, please place it in the ballot box ...

The appropriate proceedings of the department meeting ...

A copy of the basic plan and specific proposals ...

All changes made from the basic plan ...

Proposals

Instructions

Additional

May 9, 1980

CHANGES MADE AFTER DEPARTMENTAL DISCUSSION
OF DRAFT DATED MAY 1, 1980

- II. "all colleges" changed to "all undergraduate colleges and schools in the University."
- III. Deadline changed from April 22 to May 1.
- IV. Rewritten. E325M now has Writing in Different Disciplines course as prerequisite.
- V. A.1. First sentence rewritten; "reading comprehension" specified as an element of content.
 - A.1. "(to be investigated)" added after "Black sections."
 - A.2. Rewritten, with new norm for credit with B: SAT Verbal 550 (raised from 530 in draft).
 - A.4. "experimental" changed to "alternative" (also in V.B.4. and V.C.1.e.).
 - A.6. "550" changed to "549" (correction).
 - B.3. Rewritten; specification of a new exam changed to "AP 4 (credit with B) or 5 (credit with A)" for exemption. (In the current year approximately 100 students are receiving advanced placement credit for E314K; students who did not take AP will be able to petition for a special placement test in Masterworks, just as any student may now petition for a placement test in any course.)
 - B.4. "sections with maximum of 40" changed to "sections of 40."
 - C. "E32" changed to "E3" here and in ancillary proposals. (Efforts will be made to obtain more rational numbering of our current courses and new courses, the numbers reflecting levels of difficulty.)
 - C.1.c. Rewritten; "SAT Verbal 576 and above (credit with A) cutting score: exempts top ca. 15%" changed to "SAT Verbal 600 (credit with B), 625 (credit with A) cutting scores; will exempt top ca. 10% by 1979-80 figures."
 - C.1.e. Parenthetical reference to current maxima in some writing courses deleted.
 - C.2. "other" changed to "any."

Ancillary proposals J, K, and L are new.

The proposals do not address the English major requirements. They would necessitate only technical changes in the description of general degree requirements where these occur in descriptions of the English major. Fundamentally, E3 Writing in Different Disciplines (upper-division) takes the place of E307 or E308 (lower-division). See Garrison or Moldenhauer if you have questions on this subject.

- 1. A
- 1. A
- 1. A
- 1. A
- 1. A
- 1. B
- 1. B
- 1. C
- 1. D
- 1. E
- 1. F