



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

PAR 108 • Austin, Texas 78712-1164 • (512) 471-4991

February 10, 1991

Dear Joe,

If there was one issue both sides in the E 306 controversy could agree upon, it was the need for a new E 306 syllabus. The current syllabus provides weak programmatic direction and offers novice instructors too little guidance.

With a new E 306 committee to be appointed, I wanted to set down on paper goals that I believe any new course should strive to meet. I hope you will consider them.

- The design of the course should respect the catalog description; that is, the syllabus units should be determined primarily by principles of rhetoric and composition.
- The new syllabus should include training in a variety of academic genres and methods, including methods of research and documentation.
- The new syllabus should pay appropriate attention to matters of style, mechanics, and usage.
- The new syllabus, nevertheless, should embrace a variety of substantial subject matters, more along the lines of the former E 307, E 308, and E 308PC courses than current E 306. The course should involve students with ideas.
- The new course should provide a core of instruction adaptable to a variety of approaches, insuring diversity in the program while maintaining reasonable consistency across E 306 sections.
- The new curriculum should reflect the diversity of cultures represented at the University of Texas.
- The new curriculum should respect the political differences among both instructors and students at the University of Texas.
- The new course should stress topics appropriate to mission of an English department. Training for the course should emphasize expertise in rhetoric, composition, literature, grammar, and mechanics.
- The new syllabus should allow for choices in textbooks and readings.
- The new curricula should encourage individual members of the faculty to experiment with E 306 and to work with groups of graduate students interested in teaching writing.

These are, of course, general principles, but they can lead toward the development of an E 306 that would be a credit to our department and would do much to restore our fractured harmony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Ruszkiewicz".

John Ruszkiewicz