

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

S.77-35

To SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject Change of Vector:ENG 010-3

Date 16th March, 1977

Action taken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of March 8, 1977, gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION

That Senate approve the changes for ENGL.010-3, as set forth in paper S.77-35

Note - Technically the change in vector may be approved at the departmental level, however, because ENGL.010-3 is a high-enrolment, service course the proposed change has been forwarded for Senate consideration. Approval will be permissive rather than prescriptive and reorganization of the course may be contingent on the limitation of enrolment or an increase in resources. The proposed change from a lecture/tutorial format to a tutorial only format has been proposed (and was considered by SCUS) primarily on its educational merits.

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Daniel R. Birch

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 77-4

MEMORANDUM

To Mr. H.M. Evans, Secretary

From Sheila Roberts, Secretary

SCUS

Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee

Subject Course Change-Eng. 010-3

Date February 25, 1977

The attached revision to English 010-3 was approved by the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee at its meeting of February 24, 1977. The Committee noted that the cost of offering the course would be greater. Would you please put this submission on the next agenda of SCUS.

Thank you.

Sheila Roberts

S. Roberts

Attachment:

cc. Dr. D. Birch

C A L E N D A R S U B M I S S I O N

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Change of Title: From: "Writing"

to: Essay Writing.

Change of Description: From: "The principles and practice of expository writing. The course is designed to help students improve their effectiveness in written expression. It will be graded on a credit/no entry basis. (lecture/Tutorial)"

to: "This is a course in a principles and practice of expository prose, a course designed to help students improve their effectiveness in written expression. It will be graded on a credit/no entry basis."

Change of Vector: From: "1-2-0"

to: "0-3-0"

Rationale:

English 010, now in its fifth term, has consistently attracted about 400 students (half that number in the summer term). Its size increased dramatically from about 50 when it was first offered for credit. No other changes have been made in the course despite the alteration in its character caused by its growth. The 010 staff and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee believe that the time has come for a change.

The feeling has been growing among the staff and the students enrolled that two hours a week are not enough tutorial time, even when supplemented by regular individual conferences. Thirteen weeks is a painfully short period of time in which to teach or learn a skill like writing, and the two hours of tutorial "workshop" work are sadly limited. There is a strong and unanimous opinion among the 010 staff that most learning takes place in the tutorials, as opposed to the lectures, and that a third hour of tutorial time would measurably increase the value of the course to students.

A large majority of the students, in their course evaluation questionnaires, have noted that the lecture is the "least valuable" part of the course and the tutorials are the "most valuable". The lecturers themselves have tried to compensate for the difficulties of lecturing to a crowd on problems that are highly individual by using the

overhead projector and mimeographed hand-outs; nevertheless, they have been unsatisfied with the level of communication they have been able to establish with that crowd. Therefore it seems logical to sacrifice the part of the course, the lecture, which everyone agrees is the least effective, and increase time for the most effective part, the tutorial.

This change, which is advocated unanimously and vigorously by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the O10 staff, need not preclude all lecturing in the course. Instead, it would make the course far more flexible than it is now. Lecturing is obviously an efficient way to convey information, and lectures of whatever degree of formality required could be delivered to the small tutorial groups. This is, in effect, what happens now in the evening sections, which have been great success. It would also be possible, in an occasional term, to re-introduce the mass lecture if the O10 staff so desired.

Pedagogically, the proper course seems to be clear. Yet, although it is not the business of the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee to consider the University's finances, I think it is necessary to add a note about the considerably increased cost to the University of the change of vector in English O10. The whole question of the literacy of our students is very much in the public eye, with the Provincial Placement Test and the Language B.C. assessment report among other provincial actions drawing great attention. Although teaching composition should not be limited to composition courses, nor for the matter to English departments, the basic composition course we offer is the University's main contribution to alleviating the problem of illiteracy. Despite the added cost of this proposed change, the increased effectiveness of the course as we would like to teach it would very much strengthen the University's role in the battle against illiteracy. The cost should not be viewed as more money for the English department but as more money for a service by the English department to the entire University community and by the University to the Province, a service the need for which is being increasingly recognized.

C.77-2 A
SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

CHANGE OF
TITLE, DESCRIPTION
AND VECTOR.

Calendar Information

Department: ENGLISH

Abbreviation Code: ENGL Course Number: 010 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 0-3-0

Title of Course: Essay Writing

Calendar Description of Course:

This is a course in the principles and practice of expository prose, a course designed to help students improve their effectiveness in written expression. It will be graded on a credit/no entry basis.

Nature of Course Normally tutorial only

Prerequisites (or special instructions): Credit/no entry grading.

This course will not count towards the Faculty of Arts Group "A" requirements.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: None

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Every term

Semester in which the course will first be offered?

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? 010 staff Lecturers and Sessional Lecturers.

Objectives of the Course

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty About 35% more than the present 010 budget for salaries.

Staff

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: 16 Feb. 1977

February 1977

March 8, 1977

A. McInnes
Department Chairman

John M. Munro
Dean

G. R. Brich
Chairman, SCUS