

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.78-8

MEMORANDUM

To..... Senate

From..... Senate Committee on

Undergraduate Studies

Subject..... Proposed New Course - BISC 105-3

Date..... December 23, 1977

Action taken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of November 29, 1977 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION

That BISC 105-3 (Biology and the Human Species) as set forth in S.78-8, be approved, and recommended to the Board for approval, as there is not (in the judgment of SCUS) undesirable overlap.

NOTE -

The SCUS meeting at which this matter was considered took place some three weeks after referral by Senate - referral based on a concern expressed by the Chairman of the Archaeology Department about substantial overlap between the proposed BISC 105-3 (Biology and the Human Species) and the existing ARC. 131-3 (Human Origins). In the intervening period of time each department had given some consideration to the question but there had been limited discussion between the two departments. At the SCUS meeting the Archaeology Department was represented by its Chairman, Professor Carlson, and the course instructor, Professor Skinner. The Biological Sciences Department was represented by its Chairman, Professor Mackauer, and the Chairman of its Curriculum Committee, Professor Kemp. Professor Carlson stated that human biology is physical anthropology, that the Archaeology Department already offers a first-year course in physical anthropology (i.e., human biology), that the proposed BISC 105 overlaps up to 80% with that course, that the Department of Biological Sciences has proposed the course primarily for students from the Faculty of Arts and that it should not, therefore, be approved. He requested (and still requests)

that the matter be referred to the Departments concerned for consultation and resolution.

The position of the Biological Sciences Department is that physical anthropology and human biology are not identical, that BISC 105 is not a course in human biology anyway, that it is a course in general biology designed to teach concepts, principals and functions identical with those introduced in BISC 101 and 102. It is designed not solely for students from the Faculty of Arts but rather to relieve pressure on first year biology labs and it is utilizing "key problems" related to the human species as a pedagogical device to assist students in learning the concepts of general biology.

Following protracted discussion SCUS rejected the proposal that the matter be referred to the departments, determined that (in its judgment) the overlap between the courses was not as extensive as suggested by the Chairman of the Department of Archaeology, that the courses had differing purposes and perspectives, and that the degree of overlap was not undesirable.

Following the SCUS meeting, the secretary received a request from the Chairman of the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee that Senate refer this matter to the departments concerned. In order to ascertain whether there might be additional information not presented to SCUS, the Chairman of SCUS convened a meeting (December 22) attended by the Dean of Arts, the Dean of Science, the Registrar and representatives of the Department of Archaeology and the Department of Biological Sciences. At that meeting the Department of Biological Sciences presented a re-statement of the course outline unchanged in comment but revised to eliminate ambiguities which might have contributed to a judgment of course overlap. Also distributed at the meeting was the course outline of ARC. 131-3 (Spring, 1975) which had been presented to Senate at the time the course was originally approved in May 1974. It appeared from the documents that there

was relatively little overlap (if any) between the course description for BISC 105 and the original course outline of ARC. 131-3, somewhat more potential overlap with the 1977-3 outline of ARC. 131 and more again with the 1978-3 outline for ARC. 131. However, Professor Fisher of the Department of Biological Sciences (the initiator of BISC 105) reviewed the 1978-3 outline of ARC. 131 and suggested that, in his judgment, there was not more than 20 to 25% overlap. Professor Carlson continued to be concerned that the course should be entitled general biology and should not make reference to the human species if it was intended to be a general biology course.

In my judgment, as Chairman of SCUS, referral of this matter to the Departments of Archaeology and Biological Sciences is unlikely to change positions or to achieve a different resolution.

DRB/tb


D. R. Birch

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 77-62

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE
STUDIES

From..... H. M. EVANS, SECRETARY OF SENATE,
SECRETARY OF SCUS

Subject..... BISC 105-3 - REFERRAL FROM SENATE
TO SCUS

Date..... NOVEMBER 17, 1977

BISC 105-3 was approved by SCUS as SCUS 77-26, was transmitted to Senate as S.77-130, was considered by Senate at its meeting of November 7, and was referred back to SCUS.

A copy of the paper as transmitted to Senate and an extract from the Senate minutes is attached.

Also attached are papers SCUS 77-62a and SCUS 77-62b.

encls.
HME/rn

S.M. 7/11/77

e) Paper S.77-128 - Course Change - G.S. 300-5

Moved by D. Birch, seconded by T. Calvert,

"That the course changes for G.S. 300-5 - Introduction to Marxism and the Arts, as set forth in S.77-128, be approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval."

D. Birch stated that the title change had been encouraged to eliminate specific political connotations, a course description had been added, and the method of instruction had been altered from lecture/tutorial to a lecture discussion.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

f) Paper S.77-129 - Proposed Changes in Requirements - Kinesiology

Moved by D. Birch, seconded by T. Calvert,

"That the proposed changes in requirements - Kinesiology - as set forth in S.77-129, be approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval."

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

g) Paper S.77-130 - New Course Proposal - BISC 105-3 - Biology and the Human Species

Moved by D. Birch, seconded by K. Rieckhoff,

"That the new course proposal for BISC 105-3 - Biology for the Human Species, as set forth in S.77-130, be approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval."

R. Carlson stated that he was not aware of any consultation with the Department of Archaeology relating to possible overlap and would move that the course be referred back to SCUS for closer examination. The Chairman ruled the motion out of order on the ground that the procedures had been followed and the Faculty of Arts curriculum committee had confirmed that it saw no substantive overlap with the courses offered in that Faculty. Lengthy discussion ensued on the degree of overlap which may exist in elective courses and be offset by the unique presentation of a particular department.

Moved by J. Hutchinson, seconded by K. Rieckhoff,

S.M. 7/11/77

"That the ruling of the chair be challenged."

Question was called, and a vote taken.

CHALLENGE SUPPORTED

Moved by R. Carlson, seconded by J. Hutchinson,

"That Paper S.77-130 be referred to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for closer examination of overlap."

A number of Senators spoke against referral of a course which had been developed over a period of two years in response to student demand for an alternative to BISC 003.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION TO REFER CARRIED

h) Paper S.77-131 - Mathematics Requirements

Moved by D. Birch, seconded by K. Rieckhoff,

"That the proposed changes to the Mathematics degree requirements, as set forth in S.77-131, be approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval."

B. Palmer expressed objection to a Committee amending a paper without recording in its minutes the exact nature of the amendments. D. Birch gave assurance that acquiescence of the members of SCUS and the chairman of the curriculum committee had been sought to adjust the wording of the proposed calendar statement to clarify the intent.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

6. REPORTS FROM FACULTIES

i) Faculty of Arts

a) Paper S.77-132 - For Information - Course Name Changes - Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics

It was noted that Paper S.77-132 had been distributed for information regarding the name change of the Department of Modern Languages, effective January 1, 1978.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

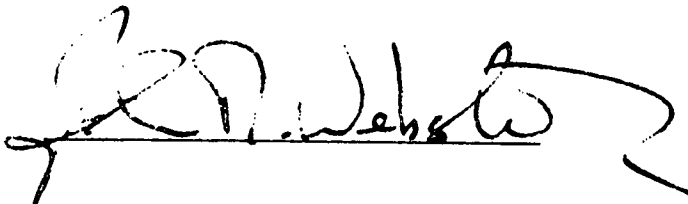
MEMORANDUM

SCUS 77-26

As amended by SCUS
Sept. 27, 1977

To.....	H.M. Evans	From.....	J.M. Webster
	Registrar		Dean of Science
Subject.....	New Course Proposal - BISC 105-3	Date.....	September 13, 1977
	"Biology and the Human Species"		

Attached please find a new course proposal form and supporting documentation for BISC 105-3, "Biology and the Human Species". This course was approved by the Faculty of Science at its meeting of July 28, 1977, and is herewith forwarded to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for further consideration.



/pel
Encl.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department: BioSciences

Abbreviation Code: BISC Course Number: 105 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 3-2-0

Title of Course: Biology and The Human Species

Calendar Description of Course:

Principles and processes of general biology with emphasis on
implications for the human species of: evolutionary processes; reproduction
and inheritance; physiological and behavioural integration and control systems;
ecology.

Nature of Course: Three lectures and two-hour tutorial demonstration (no labora-
tories).
Prerequisites (or special instructions): Open to all students.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is
approved: None. The frequency of offering of BISC 003-3 will be reduced.

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? 1 time/year.

Semester in which the course will first be offered? Spring 1978

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering
possible? F.J.F. Fisher

3. Objectives of the Course

The new course will deliberately focus upon human biology at every point. The
course will therefore meet currently unsatisfied needs in the Biology
curriculum. The course may be of particular value to non-Biology majors,
who are interested in important biological principles but who lack a formal
background in plant or animal science.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty: None

Staff: Occasional use of technical staff to set up demonstrations.

Library: Present holdings sufficient.

Audio Visual: Normal course requirements.

Space: University facilities adequate.

Equipment: Current departmental resources sufficient.

5. Approval

Date: 29 June 1977 13/9/77 27 Sept. 1977
A. Fisher D. Webster G. Smith
Department Chairman Dean Chairman, SCUS

SCUS 73-74b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a.)

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Dept. of Biological Sciences

F.J.F. Fisher

Biology and the Human Species

Biological Sciences 105

Description

A comprehensive overview of basic principles and processes of biology using the human species wherever possible as the starting point for each focus of interest:- Evolutionary Processes - origins to present day; Chemistry & Physiology - mechanisms underlying development, structure, metabolism, and behavior in animals and plants; Inheritance and Reproduction - cellular basis of variation and development; Systems and Control - integrating mechanisms of physiology and behavior; Ecology - habitats, communities and population interactions with special reference to human resources, pollution and values. Text: Robert A. Wallace Biology: The World of Life Goodyear Publishing Co., California 1975.

Rationale

During the past ten years there has been a dramatic increase in public awareness and concern for many questions of a directly biological nature that have become manifestly significant for human welfare. Potentially threatening changes in the physical environment due to industry, new doubts about food quality, burgeoning problems of human demography, and even outbreaks of new diseases have produced an array of anxieties concerning life phenomena, confusing even to the otherwise fairly well informed.

Although many of these problems have been approached in various courses in the Bioscience curriculum it has generally been one at a time and with little coordination. In the present proposal, an attempt has been made deliberately to draw together the biological insights which bear upon these problems in the form of a General Introductory Course in Biology centered particularly upon the Human Species.

Aims

While this course is intended to provide the same level of knowledge with regard to principles and processes as our present introductory courses, it will nevertheless differ very strongly in its greatly enhanced human perspective and in the kinds of examples and data used to illustrate principles. For this reason it may be taken very profitably by biology majors without excessive redundancy or overlap. The emphasis will be more upon the principles covered in BISC 102 than those in BISC 101. Current lack of laboratory space demands extended use of demonstration-experiments rather than conventional lab-instruction.

This course is expected to be of value to students of all faculties because of its deliberate focus upon human concerns at every point but it will also stand on its own right as a long-needed component of the bioscience program. It will thus provide necessary biological insights for beginning biology majors as well as appropriate knowledge for many non-science students who have sought such opportunities in the past (e.g. from Anthropology, Archeology, Communications, Economics, Geography, Kinesiology, Psychology etc.). It should therefore be of particular value as an elective for the new Arts Faculty science requirements.

Outline of Weekly Topics

Nature and origin of life on earth, prokaryotes and eukaryotes.

(Seminar: Extraterrestrial Life)

Cell structure and function, mitosis and physiology.

(Seminar: Cancer and Immunity)

Metabolism, energy transfer, photosynthesis, and growth.

(Seminar: Growth and No-Growth)

Differentiation, Morphogenesis, and development.

(Seminar: Thalidomide and Measles)

Endocrinology, neurophysiology and other integrative processes.

(Seminar: Coordination and Drugs)

Heredity, reproduction and variety.

(Seminar: Why Sexuality?)

Evolution of the primates, early and modern man.

(Seminar: Intelligent Apes?)

Biological diversity: selected groups of plants and animals.

(Seminar: Creation or Natural Selection?)

Ecological interactions and stability principles.

(Seminar: Ecocatastrophe)

Biological universals underlying competition, territoriality,
and reproductive behaviour.

(Seminar: Human Aggression)

Sociobiological mechanisms of group survival.

(Seminar: Language and Communication)

World population, resources, environmental quality and prerequisites
for long-range human survival.

(Seminar: 1984 and 2001)

In preparation for forum discussion with a guest speaker each
week a comprehensive reserve reprint list will be provided in advance.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. L. Kemp, Chairman
Curriculum Committee
Faculty of Science

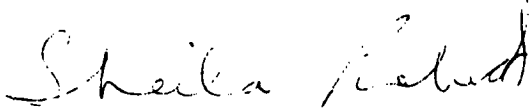
From Sheila Roberts, Secretary
Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee

Subject BISC 105

Date June 15, 1977

At its meeting of May 12, 1977 the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee considered BISC 105, which had been received for overlap consideration. The Committee saw no substantive overlap with the courses offered in the Faculty of Arts, and after some discussion passed the following motion:

"That the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee express its appreciation to the Biology Department for offering an additional course to facilitate Arts students."



S. Roberts

cc. Mr. H.M. Evans