

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.81-102

MEMORANDUM

To: SENATE

From: SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject: NEW COURSE PROPOSAL - FREN 199-3

Date: June 30, 1981

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of June 30, 1981 gives rise to the following motion:

"That Senate approve, and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.81-102, the new course proposal FREN 199-3 - Writing French."

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department: DLLL

Abbreviation Code: FREN Course Number: 199 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 0-0-0

Title of Course: Writing French

Calendar Description of Course:

An alternative to French.201-3 for francophone students who need practice in elementary grammar, composition and spelling. Offered as a correspondence course only.

Nature of Course French language

Prerequisites (or special instructions): Fluency in French. Students will be accepted after an interview with a French Division Faculty member. Students may not get credit for both FREN 201-3 and 199-3. Successful completion normally gives entry into FREN 202-3.

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? once a year (Fall)

Semester in which the course will first be offered? Fall 82

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? McDonald, Sawyer, Luu and others

3. Objectives of the Course

Students who speak French well (because their family is francophone or they have lived in a francophone district) but cannot write it and have no knowledge of formal grammar are difficult to place adequately in our present courses. This course will enable them to continue in FREN 202 and further courses. It is hoped that some of them will become French minors or majors. Open to students on or off campus.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only) Also, see attached, for full details.

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty none

Staff DISC marker/tutor; bilingual (French) secretary, during preparatory stage only

Library none

Audio Visual cassettes

Space none

Equipment lab facilities for on-campus work, etc.

5. Approval

Date: Feb 9/81

April 27, 1981

JUN 30 '81

Department Chairman

Dean

Chairman, SCUS

Proposed basic syllabus (unordered topics)

Spelling

Principles of orthoepy. Spelling of common words. Agreements in simple sentences. Conjugations of verbs.

Morphology and syntax

Conjugation of verbs (most frequently used tenses). Irregular plurals and feminines. Personal, relative and interrogative pronouns. Use of common prepositions. A few common complex sentences.

Basic grammar: noun, verb, etc.; subject, object, etc.; gender, number, agreement, tenses.

Vocabularly

Elimination of the most obvious anglicisms.
Precision in the choice of words.

Pedagogical considerations

A simple textbook including many exercises will be written for this course (sample lesson attached). Graduated dictations (on tape) will accompany the textbook.

Objectives

Basically, to achieve the standard of FREN 201 and, hopefully, to continue successfully to FREN 202 or FREN 202. The course will be sufficiently flexible to meet the basic individual needs of any student in this special category.

Course proposal - FRENCH 199

Motivation and justification

Students who speak French well but cannot write it are difficult to place in our presently available French language courses.

We see several such students each semester, some born to a Francophone environment, others having lived in a Francophone area, who have never received any formal instruction in French. They take the Placement Test and do extremely well on the oral part but disastrously badly on the written component. If we then place them in French 201 (Intermediate French I), (which has a large oral component) or in a lower course, they are soon bored because they speak so much better and faster than the other students. At the same time, they do very poorly in the grammar component of the course, but, because they feel that they are more advanced than their fellow-students, they fail to study sufficiently and fall further and further behind. When they realize that they will not receive a good grade, they abandon the course. If, on the other hand, we place them in French 202 (Intermediate French II) or in a higher course, they are immediately discouraged because the level of overt grammatical knowledge expected of them now is well beyond their capabilities. They drop out, or, if they struggle to the end of the course, get poor grades and do not take further French courses.

However, if these students are provided with courses that are more appropriate to their needs, they can receive special attention and in all probability, will continue in their French studies, possibly up to a minor or a major program in French.

The French Division believes that there is a need for at least one course designed especially for such students. Being located near Maillardville, SFU attracts students from French-Canadian families, who have never received formal instruction in French. Students with the same problem also come from districts in Vancouver and elsewhere in the Province. Since their problem is clearly in the area of writing competence, a correspondence-type course will serve their needs extremely effectively and, furthermore, create an opportunity for out-of-town students to take an S.F.U. French course, which may encourage

them to take further French courses if they come to the university later on. This new course, then, is intended to be available to both on campus and out-of-town students and the only restriction on entry is that the candidate be classifiable in terms of the criteria of the French Division as essentially Francophone.

Scheduling

Frankly, we are not at the moment certain as to exactly how many students may be interested in this new course. However, from the number of students we see at the Placement tests, we have very good reasons to believe that the course, offered once a year, will attract initially, between 15 and 20 students. The offering should be in the Fall, since this course will be one possible point of entry into the sequence of French courses which regularly start in the Fall semester of every year.