

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 82-114

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE

STUDIES

..... PROPOSED CHANGE IN REQUIREMENTS

Subject..... FOR A MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION.....

Date..... OCTOBER 14, 1982.....

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of October 5, 1982 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.82-114 , the proposed changes in requirements for a Major in Communication."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Janet Blanchet, Secretary
Faculty Curriculum Committee
Requirements for Major in CMNS
Subject.....

From.. William D. Richards
Department of Communication
22 July, 1982
Date.....

The Department of Communication has approved a change in the requirements for a major in Communication. The current calendar (page 81), in section I. Requirements for a Major, part D requires:

At least one of:

- HIST 408-3 Liberty and Authority in 19th Century thought
- PHIL 243-3 Historical studies in the philosophy of science
- PHIL 341-3 Philosophy of science (see note below)
- S.A. 327-4 Sociology of knowledge (see note below)
- S.A. 358-4 The philosophy of the social sciences (see note below)

NOTE: Some of these courses have prerequisites. For some students, these prerequisite courses will complement their communication programs. For other students with programs that provide satisfactory preparation, the prerequisites to these courses may be waived. For questions regarding this matter, consult the Undergraduate Advisor.

We had a lot of problems with the regulation as it stands. It seemed that the advanced courses in History and S.A. were too difficult for students to take without the prerequisites. They attempted to do this anyhow, which has caused a number of complaints from the departments offering these courses. The instructors felt that the relatively unprepared students from Communication were slowing the whole class down, and they were unhappy about this. To address these difficulties, we amended the calendar with the following note:

NOTE: Permission may be granted by the Undergraduate Advisor for students to fulfill the requirements by taking any two of CMNS 300, 310, 331, and 441, except the combination of 331 and 441.

It turns out that this modification has not solved the problem. For one thing, CMNS 300 has not been offered often enough to make its use a viable alternative. Another difficulty is that the whole idea of requiring students to get some exposure to the area of philosophy of social science is subverted by accepting so many options from our own course offerings, which were not designed for this purpose.

We have had discussions with the Philosophy department over the summer and have come up with the following proposal:

Philosophy is offering a new course, PHIL 244-3 Introduction to the Philosophy of Natural and Social Science. They have agreed to offer the course at least once a year. They are prepared to handle between 60 and 80 communication students at each offering. They have agreed to us listing the course in the calendar as a requirement. They have modified their proposal especially to suit our needs, as a result of extensive discussion with our department.

We are proposing to add PHIL 244-3 to the list of options in other departments. We will change the notes after the list of options, so that the CMNS options are no longer accepted and so that it is clear that the prerequisites for the upper level options should not be waived. The proposed new listing follows:

D. PHIL 244-3 Introduction to the Philosophy of the Natural and Social Sciences

or

at least one of:

HIST 408-3 Liberty and Authority in 19th Century Thought
PHIL 341-3 Philosophy of Science
S.A. 327-4 Sociology of Knowledge
S.A. 358-4 The philosophy of the Social Sciences

NOTE: PHIL 244-3 was designed especially for Communication students and has no prerequisites. A student who wishes to pursue this area in more depth may wish to substitute one of HIST 408, S.A. 327, S.A. 358, or PHIL 341 for PHIL 244. These courses all have prerequisites which are necessary background for the advanced courses. It is recommended that students taking the more advanced courses do not attempt to have the prerequisites waived.

Both of the notes currently in the calendar will be deleted.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... William Leiss, Chairman
..... Communication Department
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Subject..... PHIL 244-3

From..... S. Davis, Acting Chairman
..... Dept. of Philosophy
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Date..... August 6, 1982

We are pleased that your department has decided to list PHIL 244-3, Introduction to the Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, among the requirements for a major in communication. The course has been designed with Communication majors in mind and it will be offered at least once a year.

Steven Davis

Steven Davis

