

To: The Faculty
From: CEPC
Re: New Courses

CEPC will move to waive the seven-day rule in regard to this green sheet at the upcoming May faculty meeting. If that passes, CEPC will move the adoption of two new courses:

Soc/Anthro 292: Anthropological Theory

Catalog Statement:

This course introduces students to anthropological theory and the “culture” of the discipline itself. We will examine anthropology’s formation during the Industrial Revolution and the Age of Empire, which called for new explanations of human differences and gave new significance to the nature and meaning of “culture.” We will explore the method of participant observation research, the question of whether anthropology is a science, the problems of representing one culture to another, and the changing nature of ethnographic writing.

Green Sheet Information:

Sociology and Anthropology became a joint department in 1994, and have been building a joint major since that time. They intend a joint major rather than two, smaller, parallel majors in two disciplines; they require their majors to do significant work in both areas. So far, they only have a theory course focused on sociological materials, with some work in anthropology; they need a separate course in anthropological theory to balance the theory course in sociology. (They also require a separate research methods course based in each discipline.) As theory and research are at the “heart” of a social science discipline, having discipline-based courses in both theory and research, as well as a capstone course that combines the two, will make the requirements for the joint major more solid.

The change will not increase the size of the Soc/Anthro major. They will still require nine courses within the department, plus Statistics 110. However, they will no longer require an introductory course as part of the major (it will now be an elective); they feel that requiring courses in the intellectual history of each discipline is a better basis for the major, even if the introductory courses remain an excellent way for new students to sample what the department has to offer.

English 254: Science Writing

Catalog Statement:

Expository writing on scientific and mathematical topics aimed at a general audience. Students examine a wide range of such writing and practice and develop their own skills in these areas. Taught in a workshop format, with students sharing and critiquing each others' work. Prerequisites: GE 111 or its equivalent and two courses in science or mathematics.

Green Sheet Rationale:

This course is a revival of one taught during the period 1974-1986. This course was co-taught by an instructor from English and Mathematics, who together provided the required double expertise in writing and knowledge of the sciences. The course was popular and successful. When the two-person team was no longer able to offer the course, it was dropped by the English department, but student interest in this particular kind of writing has never waned, any more than society's need for clear scientific writing aimed at general audiences has diminished. By a happy conjunction of circumstances the English department now has the opportunity to offer the course again: a colleague from Mathematics is admirably equipped with the double expertise required, and there is one course available from Mathematics to support the offering. Though the English department can make no guarantee that it will be able in the future to support this course out of its own department course quota (even as it admits that the undoubted success of this course might tempt it to change its mind), it feels strongly that the present chance to offer the course should be seized enthusiastically.