

Department of English Memorandum

To: Freshman English Policy Committee

From: Gloria Gannaway

Date: 2-28-83

I would like to continue teaching my 308 variant, Writing and Problem-Solving. I think it has been very successful and I hope to offer a modified version as a 306 variant when the new requirements go into effect.

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PROPOSAL FOR VARIANT OF ENGLISH 307 : WRITING AS PROBLEM-SOLVING

by Gloria Gannaway

This course would combine the practical aspects of technical writing with a general study of aims and modes, rhetoric, and situational context theoretically based on Kinneavy, Harris, and Gannaway. Writing assignments would emphasize clear, creative thinking and writing; students would construct their own problems to define, explore, solve, and write up. There would be several short papers using description, process, classification, and interpretation; and a short research paper in which students would interpret data or support an hypothesis. Exerpts from the following scientific texts would provide a wide range of brilliant, provocative, well-written models:

Philosophy of Science

The Structure of Scientific Revolution - Kuhn  
Against Method - Feyerabend

Contemporary Popular Science

The Enchanted Loom: Mind in the Universe - Jastrow  
The Dancing Wu-Li Masters - Zukov  
Life on Earth - Attenborough  
Cosmos - Sagan  
The First Three Minutes - Weinberg  
Mankind in Amnesia - Velikovsky

Cognitive Science

Maps of the Mind - Hampden-Turner  
Brainstorms - Dennett  
Human Inference - Nisbett and Ross  
Rules and Representations - Chomsky  
Conceptual Blockbusting - Adams