

# New English requirement urged

## Professor issues 'mandate' for senior courses

By MICHELLE ROBBERSON

Daily Texan Staff

Based on a two-year study by the Department of English and the College of Liberal Arts, James Kinneavy, professor of English, Monday proposed a University-wide undergraduate English requirement.

"We are basically taking the second-semester freshman English course and throwing it up into the junior or senior year," Kinneavy said during a Faculty Senate meeting.

"We still propose nine hours of English as a core, which is the general average in most colleges at the University. Yet we feel there is a heavy mandate for an upper-division English course. We basically want writing courses for three or four years, not just English learned in the freshman year and forgotten," he said.

Kinneavy's "mandate" was the 1976 Hereford-Sledd report conducted by the Measurement and Evaluation Center. The report, written by two faculty members, questioned faculty and students on their desire for an upper-division English course.

**MORE THAN** 1,400 faculty members responded to the survey. More than 76 percent favored an English course in the junior or senior year.

About 2,500 students answered a similar survey question, with 83 percent saying they would be more motivated in an upper-division class than in the second-semester freshman course.

Kinneavy said more student input is coming in from a survey taken Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in second-semester freshman English classes.

The newly recommended University-wide requirements include:

- English 306, a rhetoric and

composition course currently required in all undergraduate degree programs in the freshman year.

- English 316K, a new course involving readings and writings on world, English or American masterworks in the sophomore year.

- English 346K, a new upper-division course offering specialized writing in either arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences or business in the junior or senior year.

If approved, the recommendation would avert shortages similar to the recent shortage of English instructors, Kinneavy said, because the

number of classes the department can handle has been taken into consideration. Target date for the program is 1982 — if approved through all the channels.

**PRESENT RULES** state that each college has the right to determine which courses are required, so any college catalogue change in English requirements necessitates approval by the University Council, the UT System Board of Regents and the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University Systems, Kinneavy said.

To expedite matters, English 307 will be accepted as transfer credit in place of

the upper-division English course, Kinneavy said. "I'm not sure which way most people will go — some will take 307 elsewhere while others will wait for the junior-year course."

In other business, James Vick, assistant dean of the College of Natural Sciences, asked for response from the College of Fine Arts concerning his Jan. 26 proposal to revise basic educational requirements at the University.

**THE PURPOSE** of Vick's proposal is to provide a broader education for graduates by reducing and specifying core courses.

Donald Grantham, assistant professor of music, said the proposal would have no positive effect on the recruitment of students by the University because "special" departments such as music will have to reduce academic professional study — like music theory courses — or go to a longer period of study, perhaps five years.

Vick said the proposal does not seek to eliminate specialization or professional programs, only to broaden basic requirements.

Terence Grieder, professor of art, said some of Vick's requirements eliminate the study of history and classical civilization. Vick's proposal includes six hours of U.S. government and six hours of U.S. history, as well as three hours of social science.

John Brokaw, associate professor of drama, said Vick's proposal should not deal exclusively with the course option but should examine both minimum standards for admission and comprehensive examinations.

Robert Megaw, professor of English, said the present University requirements in all degree programs were devised for college students 25 or 30 years ago.

## UT professor blasts historical falsehoods

By ERIC F. BARTELS

Daily Texan Staff

The strength of black historical studies has been its refusal to buy the myths of American society, myths born when the founding fathers failed to live up to their eloquent creed, a University history professor said Monday night.

Before more than 30 people in the Texas Union's Stahrles Room, George Wright kicked off UT's Black History Month with a discussion of "Black History: Its Founding and Importance."

"America is not the land of the free," said Wright, a 30-year-old Kentucky native in his first year at the University. "In fact, this country was built on slavery, not on freedom."

America has not been the land of opportunity portrayed by many historians, Wright said. Instead, the country has historically offered its riches to select groups — especially affluent, white males.

Wright's lecture focused largely on the racist qualities not normally attributed to American leaders, who traditionally have been considered fighters for freedom.

The men who occupied the presidency for 30 of the first 36 years of the office's existence were Virginia slaveholders, Wright said.

"On July 3, 1776, 700,000 blacks were enslaved in this country. On July 4, 1776, there were 700,000 blacks enslaved in this country. What kind of revolution occurred? Did we just exchange one oppressor for another?" Wright said.