

July 9, 1990

Professor Linda Brodkey
Chair, Lower Division English Policy Committee

Dear Linda:

As members of the Lower Division English Policy Committee, we remain interested in the shape of the new E 306 curriculum.

The decision to rescind Racism and Sexism: An Integrated Study now focuses attention on the content of the instructional packet that will replace the Rothenberg anthology in E 306. We believe that all members of the LDEPC should be kept current about materials being considered for this expanded packet. At this time, we don't know what topics will be covered, what articles will be included, who will select materials for the packet, or who will approve them.

We realize that the Lower Division Office is busy this summer administering the summer courses and preparing the new curriculum; we don't want to add appreciably to that burden. We do, however, feel a responsibility to know more about the content of a course we are charged with overseeing. We hope you'll keep us informed.

Sincerely,

James Duban

John Ruskiewicz

Principles for LDEPC Consideration
April 6, 1990

- 1. Any major modification of E 306, a university-wide required writing course, should emerge from a methodical process of syllabus design, revision, and approval. A significantly new E 306 course design should be tested in a small-scale pilot program before being implemented generally.**
- 2. Any E 306 course syllabus should permit and encourage a diversity of approaches to teaching writing. At a minimum, experienced assistant instructors should be able to choose from among a variety of textbooks representing the major currents in composition theory and practice. The program ought not to require experienced assistant instructors using mainstream approaches to submit "variant course proposals" simply to follow methods or textbooks that have worked well for them in the past.**
- 3. An anthology selected to raise the issue of "difference" should itself demonstrate an awareness of "difference." Its readings should invite balanced teaching, encourage full class participation, and evoke significant writing; the essays within such a collection ought to be sufficiently diverse to challenge the assumptions of instructors and students alike. The required anthology proposed for the new E 306--St. Martin's Racism and Sexism--is too narrow in scope to meet these criteria.**

Motions rejected by the Lower Division Policy Committee:

1.) that the director of the LDEPC with the assistance of members of the LDEPC compose a syllabus for a version of E 306 Rhetoric and Composition that uses readings focusing on issues of difference and that this syllabus be tested in pilot sections during the 1990-91 term taught by new AIs and other instructors interested in the new version. Further, I move that the LDEPC evaluate the new course focus during the 1990-91 term for the purpose of implementing it more generally in 1991-92.

2. that any new E 306 course syllabus be written so as to permit and encourage a diversity of approaches to teaching writing, including process methods that emphasize genres or modes.

3. that any instructor of E 306 who wishes to use the current E 306 syllabus and/or rhetorics or readers currently approved for the course may continue to do so for the 1990-91 term.

4. that the LDEPC rescind its choice of Racism and Sexism as the approved anthology for E 306 and approve--in its place--a list of anthologies that offer a wider spectrum of issues and a more balanced perspective on contemporary social issues.

4a. Motion #4 modified to include Rothenberg's Racism and Sexism as one of several options for instructors in E 306.

1. Barnet, Sylvan, and Hugo Bedau. Current Issues and Enduring Questions: Methods and Models of Argument. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford, 1989.
2. Hirschberg, Stuart. Strategies of Argument. New York: Macmillan, 1990.
3. Vesterman, William. The College Writer's Reader: Essays on Student Issues. New York: McGraw, 1989.
4. Otte, George, and Linda J. Palumbo. Casts of Thought. New York: Macmillan, 1990.
5. Hunt, Douglas. The Dolphin Reader. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton, 1990.
6. Atwan, Robert. Our Times: Readings from Recent Periodicals. New York: Bedford-St. Martin's, 1989.
7. Madden-Simpson, Janet, and Sara M. Blake. Emerging Voices: A Cross-Cultural Reader. Fort Worth: Holt, 1990.
8. Colombo, Gary, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle. Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing. New York: St. Martin's, 1989.