Frosh courses spiced up

Mini-courses, special studies, diversified topics and seminars will spice up University offerings to freshmen this year, according to Jim O'Hanlon, coordinator of Freshman Programming.

Freshmen-level courses in many UNL departments were expanded for 1974-75, he said, in response to freshmen requests and department needs.

In a five-part survey last year freshmen requested smaller, more personal classes and more choice in courses. Some departments are seeking either to increase or decrease enrollments in upper-level courses, O'Hanlon said. He said UNL's empha-

He said UNL's emphasis will be to improve the academic advising system, also in response to the survey.

Chancellor James Zumberge asked advisors for suggestions on how they may increase time spend with advisees and make advising a more continuous, natural process.

O'Hanlon said the English Dept, leads all others with its revised freshman program.

Already the favorite among freshmen because of its small classes, he said, the Enlish Dept.'s sole flaw according to freshmen surveyed was lack of choice.

All freshmen had to register for one course, either two 3-hour or one 6-hour block(s).

"Different teachers emphasized different topics," "O'Hanlon said, "it made each class different. Students sometimes said they didn't get the course they signed up for."

Starting this fall, the department offers 19 freshman English courses in two semesters.

Each is a special topic, O'Hanlon said, so the student may know the course content when he or she enrolls.

Course titles include Chicano Literature, Native American Literature, Black Literature, Fantasy and Science Fiction, Introduction to Novel, Introduction to Non-fiction Prose, Writing and Drama.

The Geology Dept. added six mini-courses to its freshman program, O'Hanlon said, mostly to entice freshmen to courses by treating current topics in them.

'Freshmen were not attracted to a course 'Physical Geology',' O'Hanlon said. ''It doesn't sound very exciting.''

They kept the old courses though, for those who want them, he said.

The mini-course packet, 'Frontiers of Earth Science,' offers freshmen one to three credit hours a semester for two sem-

O'Hanion said freshmen may sign up for a series Oceanography, Continental Draft and Ice Ages, or Energy Problems, Geological Catastrophies and Evolution. Or they may take any one, two or three of the courses each semester.

The courses are aimed

wednesday, august 21, 1974

at freshmen but open to all students, lie said. The department hopes to add a field course for freshmen geology majors by spring, he said

The History Dept. opened upper-level courses to freshmen, O'Hanlon said.

Freshmen have a choice of 12 courses in two semesters, Until this fall, they had four.

Freshmen indicated the old courses were too much like survey courses they took in high school, O'Hanlon said. So the department decided to make the specialized courses available to fresmen who want them.

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The department also decided to give students options in course structures, O'Hanlon said. They may choose between straight lecture classes, lecture and discussion and small or large sections.

Courses will be taught

by professors, he said.

Freshmen seminars, new last year, will double in number by spring 1975, O'Hanlon said. They offer freshmen small classes taught by full professors in a discussion format.

Examples: "Our Culture, Stresses and Adaptions" in antrhopolgy; "Techno-ethics in Science Fiction" in biology; "The Intellectual in Society" in university studies, and an English seminar geared toward Nebraska history and litera-

O'Hanlon said the new programs have little effect on upper-leval courses.

"Now was the time to do it. We're in the midst of decreasing enrollments. Before, enrollment increases made departments strain just to keep up," he said.

eep up," he said. The History Dept. took money from a shrinking araduate program, O'Hanion said. And the English Dept. only formalized their previous program, he said.



