

Summer reading courses offer students credit

"The true University of these days is a collection of Books."
—Thomas Carlyle

A collection of books and the time this summer to read them can earn university credit for students enrolled in summer reading courses through the UNL Extension Division.

These courses allow a student to earn up to six hours of credit during the summer.

Registration for summer reading courses starts April 14 at Nebraska Hall 511 and continues through June 11.

According to Edor Ellingson, coordinator of evening classes for the Extension Division, course offerings totaled 39 Tuesday, but he said he expects a few more before the final schedule is printed.

The decision of which courses to offer is made by the individual instructors, Ellingson said. Reading course forms are sent to all university instructors, and those wishing to teach a course decide which classes they will offer.

Courses are being offered this summer in art, architecture, classics, economics, English, food and nutrition, forestry, history, journalism,

pharmacodynamics, psychology, sociology and speech pathology.

Departments new to the program this year are geography, modern languages, philosophy and political science.

Ellingson said a student wishing to enroll in a summer reading course must attend meetings for that class in the spring.

At the meeting, the instructor will give the student a syllabus and a list of requirements for the class, Ellingson said.

Requirements for completion of the course can range from essay and short answer tests to papers and conferences, he said. Courses are scheduled to be completed by September.

The schedule of spring meetings should be ready by next week, Ellingson said, and will be distributed in all residence halls, fraternities and sororities, and posted in all university buildings. A limited number of copies will also be available in Nebraska Hall 511.

Ellingson encourages students to register early, since class size is often limited to 15 or 25 students.

Students must have the signature of their adviser or college dean in order to register.

Tuition, which is \$18 per credit hour for Nebraska

residents and \$48.25 per credit hour for non-residents, must be paid at the time of registration.

Summer reading courses began in 1967, when Robert Hough, professor of English, offered a summer reading course to his students through regular university registration, Ellingson said.

The Extension Division took over the program in 1968, when they offered two courses and enrolled 42 students. The program reached its peak in 1971 when 866 students registered for 49 courses.

According to Ellingson, enrollment has dropped since 1971, and in 1974 they offered 33 courses and had 661 students.

The reason for the drop, he said, was a change in tuition. When the program started, both residents and nonresidents were charged \$20 per credit hour, and nonresidents took advantage of the courses as an inexpensive way to earn credit.

When the tuition for nonresidents changed to \$48.25 per credit hour, the enrollment figures dropped.

Judging from last year's figures, Ellingson estimates an enrollment this summer of 650-700 students.

daily nebraskan

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Second Class Postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.
Address: The Daily Nebraskan Nebraska Union 34, 14th and R Sts., Lincoln, Neb, 68508. Telephone 402-472-2588.
The Daily Nebraskan is published by the Publications Committee on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday through the autumn and spring semesters, except on holidays and during vacation.
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Recession reducing weddings?

Perhaps one of the more subtle aspects of a recession is the number of marriage licenses issued. Associated Press reports from North Carolina indicate that marriages have declined 50 per cent in an area where unemployment is near 10 per cent.

One theory suggests that with widespread layoffs and high prices, young people are less likely to start a family.

Lancaster County has experienced a decline in the number of marriage licenses issued, according to county court records. In November through January, 406 licenses were issued, compared to 471 the year before. That is a decrease of almost 14 per cent.

Even with the drop in marriage licenses, the number of church weddings has not declined.

Several pastors said they are performing about the same number of marriage ceremonies as a year ago. One said that he did not have as many scheduled for June and July as usual, but that could change.

Most church officials contacted said they do not charge a fee for a marriage.

Pastor Charles Reimnitz of Christ Lutheran Church said that he performed a ceremony in a home where the cost was around 50 dollars.

"There are ways of getting around costs," he said. "But more young men are making sure they've got a job."

One minister's wife noted that simpler weddings are becoming fashionable. "Not because of the recession, but because kids are more practical these days," she said.

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