

# Arts & Sciences reviews language requirement

By Mary Louise Knapp

A possible revision of requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree will be discussed at a meeting of UNL Arts and Sciences faculty Oct. 1, said Tom Bestul, associate dean of the college.

Bestul said the faculty will discuss recommendations made by the Task Force on Undergraduate Education.

The task force, appointed in 1979, is composed of students and faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Larry Lusk, task force chairman, said the group will present the faculty with two optional sets of requirements for the degree.

Under the first option Lusk said, students getting a Bachelor of Science degree would take up to six hours of modern languages or "cultural diversity" courses such as the history or literature of another civilization. Thus, students would not be required to take a foreign language unless they had not fulfilled the basic entrance requirements for the college, he said.

Entrance requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences include two years or the equivalent of a foreign language in high school.

### Possibly exempt

Students who had taken more than the required language courses might be exempt from the requirement alto-

gether, hence the option of 0-6 hours, Lusk said.

In addition, students would be required to take 12 hours of humanities and arts, nine hours of history and social sciences, nine hours of natural sciences and six hours of English composition.

The second option is similar to the current requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, Lusk said.

Under his option, students are required to take from 0-6 hours of a foreign language, nine hours in arts and humanities with no more than six hours in either department, three semester courses in natural sciences with one lab course, and six hours of a history of civilization course.

"We have also added a new requirement which is a course on minority or non-Western cultures in the United States," he said.

Students would also be required to take 50 to 70 hours of courses pertaining to their major or in related subjects, as required by the individual department.

Lusk explained that in many departments, the number of hours required for a major are very few, while in other departments the required course load for majors is so heavy that students have no time to take anything else.

In order to alleviate this problem, the task force has also proposed a "concentration" requirement, which functions somewhat like a minor, under which students would be required to take 18 hours in a subject other than their

major.

"This gives students an opportunity to study something else in depth," he said.

### Faculty concern

Lusk added that there is a great deal of concern among faculty members about the foreign language requirement for the Bachelor of Science degree.

"Language has been a hot potato for a long time," he said.

Many science students have argued there is no need for them to take foreign languages they will never use, Lusk said.

"However, the general faculty sentiment is that languages are very important," he said, adding the faculty is usually unified in a determination to keep the foreign language requirement.

Lusk said UNL has not looked at requirements for a long time and that most colleges around the country were revamping lists of requirements in the various colleges.

"Some of these requirements were established ten or twenty years ago," he said.

Lusk said the major purpose of the recommendations is to encourage expansion of general education.

## Historian conducts seminar

Hans Mommsen, a German historian touring the United States under the auspices of the Goethe Institute, will be conducting a two-day seminar Oct. 5 and 6 on German society of the 1920s and 1930s, said Edward Homze, a UNL history professor.

Mommsen, uses old newsreels and documentaries to illustrate his material. There will be three sessions, a longer film viewing and a symposium, Homze said.

The first session from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 5 will focus on German political parties. A 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. session will look at German youth during the period. A session on German

unemployment will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. followed at 1p.m. by the film viewing.

The 2 p.m. symposium will feature Mommsen, Homze, June Levine of the English and Film Studies departments, Mark Cory of the Modern Languages department and Peter Reinkordt of the Modern Languages department. All sessions will be at the Nebraska Union.

A photographic exhibition called "Germany in the 1920s" will be displayed in the union at the time of the seminar and will remain for two weeks.

Homze said this is the first time the photos have been shown in this country, as they have just cleared customs.

## Study skills courses offered

Certain skills are needed to be a college student, including reading, and writing.

But what if you've been out of school for a while or have gotten out of practice while you were in Wyoming punching cows all summer? The Community may be the answer to your problem.

"This semester we are offering four courses for primarily returning students who are a little out of practice and want to get back in the swing of things," Chuck Vavlicek, coordinator of the Community, said. "Freshmen are just as welcome, however."

Although the course in study skills started Monday, Vavlicek said there may be room for a couple more students. Dates for other courses in the Science

of Efficient Study this semester are: Reading Skills, Oct. 6; Memory Skills, Oct. 19 and Academic Writing Skills, Oct. 27. All courses are from 5 to 7 p.m. for three weeks.

Registration is \$15. The Division of Continuing Studies has more information.

### Consciousness subject of philosophy professor talk

A University of London professor will give Sept. 25 the Cedric A. Evans Memorial Lecture at UNL.

Norman Malcolm, a professor of philosophy, will lecture on "Consciousness: The Subjective Character of Experience" at 3 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.



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