

# Frosh honors courses challenge superb students

By Suzanne Teten

Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Despite the title, UNL honors courses are no tougher than other college courses, according to one UNL adviser.

Doug Neitzel, assistant director of admissions and advising, said honors courses are "more intensive but not more difficult." Neitzel said some students may hesitate to enroll in honors courses because they have heard that the courses are harder.

Neitzel advises incoming freshmen on their class schedules. Honors courses are open to students who score at least 29 on the American College Testing exam or rank in the top ten percent of their graduating class. He said valedictorians of very small high school classes may enroll in honors courses even if their cumulative ACT score is below 29, but still acceptable.

Of the 600 to 700 freshmen invited to enroll in honors courses each year, Neitzel said only about 200 of these enroll in the courses.

Neitzel said honors courses offer students several advantages. The courses provide an opportunity for research, and the chance to work with professors who are "masters of the topics they are teaching." Honors courses also give students an opportunity to work with other students who have similar interests and abilities, he said.

Honors courses are offered in UNL's history, political science, mathematics and English departments, but Neitzel said most of these honors programs end after the first semester.

The College of Agriculture "has a fairly sophisticated, comprehensive honors program," Neitzel said. In that program, professors select students during their first

semester of college and outline an advanced program for their college education. The professors continue working with the students until their degree is completed, he said.

UNL English professor Maureen Honey said she has high expectations of all her students. She said she doesn't think freshmen in regular courses are "significantly different" from those in honors courses. However, she said, honors English courses usually attract people who enjoy writing and reading.

Honey said she is "free to assign demanding reading" to students in honors courses. Honey currently teaches English 100H, an honors course covering five types of literature. She said the reading list is "a little more difficult but not wildly different" from the reading assigned in other English 100 courses.

Generally, honors students are "more confident about their understanding of the texts," she said. She attributes this to the students' past academic success and their enjoyment of the classwork.

Discussions "roll along more easily" in honors courses, Honey said, but that's not a rule. "Some honors courses are just as lacking in discussion as regular courses," she said.

Honey said she has no preference for teaching honors courses

over regular ones because "every class has its own uniqueness."

However, the professor had no difficulty deciding what she likes best about honors courses. She said she particularly enjoys reading the students' papers. "They teach me things," she said.

Teri Sperry, a 20-year-old junior from Wallace, said she took 106H and 107H in the English department and 100H in political science when she was a freshman. Sperry said she was "a little scared" by the honors courses at first, but found they weren't as difficult as she had expected.

Honors courses proved to be more interesting than regular courses, she said. The reading requirements were more challenging and "more thought and style was expected from writing," she said. Although she found the courses more time-consuming, Sperry said she didn't mind the extra work because she enjoyed the courses.

"For the most part," Sperry said, "the instructors knew that the students were highly motivated and were there to learn."

Professors presented more intellectually stimulating material than in regular courses and didn't spend as much time on the basics, Sperry said, particularly in her political science class. She said the class discussed government issues rather than "how a

bill becomes a law."

However, not all students come away from honors courses with positive feelings.

Elizabeth Eastin, a sophomore English pathology major, said she thinks the purpose of an honors course is to learn more and delve more deeply into discussion topics.

Eastin said that if she had taken a regular course instead of one of her honors classes she might have received a better grade.

Honors courses mean "more work, but that's why you took them," she said. If professors only

focus on grading tougher, Eastin said they defeat the purpose of the course. She said some honors professors drive away students who must maintain high grade point averages. These students fear getting a bad grade because of taking the "harder" course.

The materials in her honors class were good, she said, but sometimes the emphasis was misplaced.

Eastin said she had a "good experience" with the other honors course she took as a freshman.

"There was more emphasis placed on learning than on grades."

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## Police Report

A person was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of filing a false police report.

UNL police received a report that a checkbook was stolen from Love Memorial Cooperative on East Campus. After an investigation, police allegedly found the report to be false.

The arraignment date is Sept. 20 in Lancaster County Court.

The following incidents were reported to UNL police between 12:10 a.m. and 11:29 p.m. Wednesday.

12:10 a.m. — Person reported to be loitering around Sculpture Garden near Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. Person was gone when police arrived.

1:58 a.m. — Smell of smoke reported at 1115 N. 16th St. Police think smell was caused by a fluorescent light fixture.

12:03 p.m. — Stolen check-book reported at Love Memorial Cooperative on East Campus. After investigation, the person was arrested on suspicion of filing a false police report.

2:48 p.m. — Wallet reported stolen from a locker in the North Field House.

4:09 p.m. — Two-car accident reported in Parking Area 10 near the Engineering Complex. No injuries were reported.

5:28 p.m. — Wallet reported stolen from a locker in the Coliseum.

7:45 p.m. — Security alarm reported sounding at Brace Physics Laboratory.

7:50 p.m. — Alleged theft reported from a car near Mussehl Hall on East Campus. Suspect was arrested.

9:13 p.m. — Noise disturbance reported at Broyhill Fountain near Nebraska Union.

11:29 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident reported in Parking Area 23 at 14th and Avery streets.



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