

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S80-92

MEMORANDUM

To Senate

From Senate Committee on

Undergraduate Studies

Subject Approval of Courses for Continued Offering: G.S. 402-5, 403-5

Date 1980-06-18

Action taken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of 3 June 1980 gives rise to the following motions:

MOTION 1

That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the continued offering of the following courses:

- G.S. 402-5 - Myths, Fictions, Histories: Telling the Truth About Experience, I
- G.S. 403-5 - Myths, Fictions, Histories: Telling the Truth About Experience, II

Note -

Subject to approval of the courses for continued offering it is proposed that G.S. 402 and G.S. 403 be next offered in the Fall semester 80-3 and the Spring semester 81-1 respectively.

MOTION 2

That Senate delegate to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies authority to approve for further offering General Studies courses that have been authorized for initial one-time offering and have proven successful.

Note -

Under such circumstances the proposal from the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee would still be circulated to the Curriculum Committees of other Faculties for general response and for specific comment on overlap prior to consideration in SCUS.

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 80-3

MEMORANDUM

To Mr. H. M. Evans, Registrar &
Secretary to the Senate
Committee on Undergraduate
Subject Studies.

From J. Blanchet, Administrative
Assistant,
Faculty of Interdisciplinary
Studies.

Date May 22/80.

Re: New Course Proposals:

G.S. 402-5, Myths, Fictions, Histories: Telling the
Truth about Experience, I.

G.S. 403-5, Myths, Fictions, Histories: Telling the
Truth about Experience, II.

Attached are the new course proposals noted above. While these items are presented as new course proposals, they were in fact approved by Senate on January 10/77, and were offered sequentially in 77-3 and 78-1. In preparation for this earlier presentation to Senate, these courses were circulated to other faculties for overlap consideration on April 12/76, and were submitted to the Library on the same date.

These courses were presented to the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee with the request that they be approved for re-offering, and such approval was given by this committee on April 1/80. Would you please place G.S. 402-5 and G.S. 403-5 on the next agenda of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for that committee's consideration.

J. Blanchet.

JMB

Attachments.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department: -----

Abbreviation Code: G.S. Course Number: 402 Credit Hours: 5 Vector: _____

Title of Course: Myths, Fictions, Histories: telling the truth about experience. I.

Calendar Description of Course:

The differences and commonalities we find in myths; fictions; and histories; attempts to tell the truth about experience, and the kind of truth they tell.

Nature of Course Seminar

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

Open to advanced undergraduates, graduates, or by permission of instructor

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved:

None

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? About once every three years

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 1980-3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? K. Egan, Faculty of Education

3. Objectives of the Course

To introduce students to some of the distinctions and commonalities among three major ways of making sense of human events and of trying to express that sense as truly as possible. To introduce students to a set of very abstract concepts - e.g. plot, paradigm, mimesis - which can be useful in any study of attempts to tell some truth about experience in a narrative.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty

Staff

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: _____

15 May 80

JUN 3 '80

[Signature]
Department Chairman

[Signature]
Dean

[Signature]
Chairman, SCUS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

Calendar Information

Department: ----

Abbreviation Code: G.S. Course Number: 403 Credit Hours: 5 Vector: -----

Title of Course: Myths, Fictions, Histories: telling the truth about experience. II.

Calendar Description of Course:

The differences and commonalities we find in myths; fictions; and histories; attempts to tell the truth about experience, and the kind of truth they tell. A brief history of the study of myths, fictions, and histories.

Nature of Course Seminar

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

Open to advanced undergraduates, graduates, or by permission of instructor

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved:

2. Scheduling None

How frequently will the course be offered? About once every three years

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 1981-1

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible?

K. Egan, Faculty of Education

Objectives of the Course

To introduce students to some of the distinctions and commonalities among three major ways of making sense of human events and of trying to express that sense as truly as possible. To introduce students to a set of concepts - e.g. fact, event, narrative unit - which can be useful in any study of attempts to tell some truth about experience in a narrative.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty

Staff

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: _____

Department Chairman

15 May 80

Dean

JUN 3 80

Chairman, SCUS

COURSE OUTLINE

- G.S. 402: MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES: telling the truth about experience. I
G.S. 403: MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES: telling the truth about experience. II

All art is a lie which helps us get closer to the truth, Picasso said. And what is truth? Myths, fictions, and histories ~~each~~^{all} claim to tell the truth in some way. Myths claim to tell the deepest truths, those that lie hidden beyond the surface of things accessible to our senses. Fictions deliberately lie in order to tell more profound truths than literal reporting would allow. Histories seek to tell the truth about ~~(what was done, showing)~~ the real past that caused the present.

The purpose of these courses is to explore the ways myths, fictions, and histories try, and have tried, to tell their truths about experience, and to see what kinds of truths they try to tell. We will be concerned with ways in which their claims to tell the truth are different, overlap, or compete.

G.S. 402 will be offered during Fall 1980, and G.S. 403 during Spring 1981. They are designed so that students may take either or both. The emphasis during the first course will be on more general distinctions among myths, fictions and histories and on their commonalities and competing claims to tell the truth. The emphasis in the second course will be on the historical development of fictions and histories from myths in the ancient near-east, and on how myths, fictions, and histories are plotted and use facts and events in their composition. We will, that is, in the second course approach much the same set of issues from different perspectives from those taken in the first course, and we will use different readings.

G.S. 402 Readings will be selected from: Bronislaw Malinowski, "Myth in Primitive Psychology;" Frank Kermode, The Sense of an Ending; Aristotle, Poetics; Thomas S. Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions; Robert Canary and Henry Kozicki (Eds.), The Writing of History; Hayden V. White, Metahistory; Mircea Eliade, Cosmos and History; Geoffrey Kirk, Myth: Its Nature and Meaning ...; Claude Levi-Strauss, Structural Anthropology, The Savage Mind, The Raw and the Cooked; Roland Barthes, "Myth Today;" Vico, The New Science; Northrop Frye, "New directions from old;" Edmund Leach, "Genesis as Myth;" Vladimir Propp, Morphology of the Folktale; Philip Rhaas, "The Myth and the Powerhouse;" M.I. Finley, "Myth, memory, and history;" Berteloff, "Fiction, history, myth;"

G.S. 403 Readings will be selected from: Bruno Snell, The Discovery of the Mind; E.R. Dodds, The Greeks and the Irrational; H.D.F. Kilito, Poiesis; J. Finlay, Four Stages of Greek Thought; Carl L. Becker, "What are historical facts?"; Norman Friedman, "Forms of the Plot"; K. Egan, "What is a plot?", "Progress in historiography"; Hayden V. White, "The Burden of history", "The historical text as literary artifact"; Tzvetan Toderov, The Poetics of Prose; F.M. Cornford, From Religion to Philosophy; Henry Frankfort, et al., Before Philosophy; F. Nietzsche, The Use and Abuse of History.

Requirements: (For each course) A major paper on a topic to be agreed on with instructor, a draft of which will be due eight weeks into the semester; an introduction to a class discussion of at least one reading; one shorter paper comparing aspects of myths, fictions and histories.

Some publications of instructor related to the course topics:

- K. Egan, "Mythical and historical reference to the past." Clio, June 1973, pp. 291-307.
- _____, "From myth to mythos." Western Humanities Review, Spring 1978, pp. 99-120.
- _____, "What is a plot?" New Literary History, Spring 1978, pp. 455-74.
- _____, "Thucydides, tragedian", in Robert Canary and Henry Kozicki (Eds.), The Writing of History. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin University Press, 1978, pp. 63-92.
- _____, "Progress in historiography". Clio, Winter 1978, pp. 195-228.
- _____. Educational Development. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979. (A four stage model -- Mythic, Romantic, Philosophic, Ironic -- of how we make sense of experience in increasingly sophisticated ways.)
- _____. (Myth and History. Ph.D. dissertation, on the development of historiography out of myth in ancient Greece.)
- K. Egan and S. Egan. Review of Jeffrey Mehlman, A Structural Study of Autobiography, in West Coast Review, October 1976, pp. 52-3.