

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

*Sept 6.*  
S.258  
*Curriculum*  
*Change*

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| To H. M. Evans, Registrar<br>Secretary of Senate | From A. McDougall    |
| Subject PSA 474                                  | Date August 21, 1969 |

I request that you place the following motions on the Agenda for the September 8 meeting of the University Senate.

THAT Senate rescind its decision of the August 4 meeting to refer proposed new course PSA 474 back to the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee;

THAT Senate accept PSA 474 as a new course as outlined in Senate paper S-253, page 111;

THAT Senate suspend its rule, arising out of a motion passed at the September, 1967, meeting (Minutes of that meeting, page 8) to the effect that no new course may be scheduled for a given semester unless it has been approved by Senate at least one month before the beginning of that semester; and

THAT Senate instruct the Registrar to schedule and accept the registrations in PSA 474 for the 69-3 semester.

In support of these motions, the attached paper is submitted as a rebuttal of the arguments which led Senate to refer PSA 474 back to the Faculty Curriculum Committee.

RECEIVED  
SEP 22 1969  
REGISTRAR

CONCERNING DR. CARLSON'S OBJECTIONS TO PSA 474

*ASA*  
*Curriculum*

At the August 4 meeting of the University Senate, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts put forward for approval three new courses to be offered this Fall (semester 69-3) by the PSA Department (Senate paper S-253). Dr. Roy Carlson, Senator and Director of Archaeological Studies, put forward objections to all of these courses and PSA 474, a proposed upper level course in Cultural Evolution, was referred back to the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee as a result of these objections.

In the PSA submission, it was stated that there was no course overlap between PSA 474 and other courses offered in the Department, and no known course overlap within the Faculty. Dr. Carlson objected that there was overlap, specifically with PSA 272, Archaeology of the Old World. Why he chose this time to present his dissenting view is not known - all new courses were circulated to the Faculty of Arts in a referendum and presumably the Curriculum Committee acted in part on the basis of this referendum in putting the courses forward to Senate. Dr. Carlson presented what appeared to be a well documented case against acceptance of PSA 474; on closer examination of reading lists, course outlines, etc., this is not the case.

Dr. Carlson's basic objections were as follows:-

- a) Course content overlap, specifically with PSA 272;
- b) Duplication of reading material on other PSA courses;

These objections may be considered ad seriatim.

- a) To support his argument that there was course content overlap, Dr. Carlson read the calendar description of PSA 272 and the first of three paragraphs in the course description prepared for PSA 474. These are as follows:-

PSA 272 - Calendar description

A survey of the Old World Prehistory from the Paleolithic to the Bronze Age. Basic concepts used in reconstructing prehistoric cultures, and the artifactual, fossil, and contextual evidence for the evolution of man and culture (emphasis supplied).

PSA 474 - Course description

The origins of culture and language and the biosocial evaluation of man. The evolutionary basis of the development of cultural institutions with emphasis on the growth

and decline of clan society. The relevance of sub-human primate societies for the origin of the social division of labour and territoriality. A.S.

Dr. Carlson neglected to read the remaining paragraphs of the description. These read,

Examples are taken from contemporary "primitive" societies to examine clan society, but we will keep in the forefront that such contemporary groups have been radically affected by contact with advanced agrarian and industrial societies, often exploitative.

We will attempt to develop a theory of culture change which will rest upon the formulations of historical materialism of Marx-Engels and other 19th and 20th century political philosophers, at the same time subjecting logical positivism which dominates present anthropological theory to critical scrutiny (emphasis supplied).

And a post scriptum to the reading list:

Needless to say, our point will be to generate, not recapitulate, theory.

Unfortunately, no other Senator had this information at the meeting. To elaborate, PSA 272 will be given in semester 69-3 by Mr. Hobler. The course outline for that offering has just been published (August 11) and reads as follows:

A survey course dealing with the prehistory of the Old World - Europe, Africa, Asia. The course traces the history and evolution of culture from its beginnings some two million years ago in Africa to the fourth or fifth millennium before Christ. The problems surrounding the understanding of the biological evolution of man and the effects culture may have had upon this are covered. Racial taxonomies viewed from the perspective of biological evolution are also covered.

An emphasis will be placed upon the theoretical concepts used in the reconstruction of prehistoric cultures. The discipline of Archaeology will be outlined and its interdisciplinary relationships with other fields will be explored.

Even a casual glance at these outlines will show that these courses do not by any means conflict; indeed they compliment each other if anything, a condition devoutly to be hoped for in any Department in any University.

b) As for the duplication of texts between PSA 474 and other offerings in the Department, an objection of this sort from an academic is startling to say the least. Taken to its logical conclusion it would mean that no one, especially students, should ever read a book twice! In the context of academic work, as a student's powers of comprehension and his critical faculties grow, a continual re-assessment of the content of his discipline is mandatory if his intellectual development is to mean anything at all.

To take the specific examples cited by Dr. Carlson, the three books listed as required reading for PSA 474, two of them, Engels Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State and Morgan's Ancient Society, have been around for 35 and 92 years respectively, are considered classics in their field (which is not Archaeology), and presumably have been read and re-read occasionally in that time. The third, Elman Service's Primitive Social Organization, represents, in the author's own words, "an argument in favor of hypotheses" (page 182) and as such raises many questions in the field of cultural evolution and ethnography. The book as a whole constitutes a fertile source of ideas which can be discussed over and over again; all disciplines have books of this nature, which students of the discipline cannot afford to ignore. Little wonder students are directed to them in more than one course.

Dr. Carlson also made the point that a number of books listed as other readings on the PSA 474 outline were Archaeological in content or orientation. This is not too surprising, since Archaeology is usually subsumed under Cultural Anthropology. (Dr. Carlson's own degree is in Cultural Anthropology.) However, on a perusal of nine reading lists of Archaeology courses, only two books listed under PSA 474 appear - Oakley's Man the Tool-Maker and Mongait's Archaeology in the U.S.S.R.

Looking closer at these reading lists for Archaeology, it appears that Dr. Carlson does after all approve of students reading the same books twice, at least in Archaeology courses. For example, in semester 67-3 both PSA 272 and PSA 372 were given to Archaeology students, and there were two books common to the reading lists - Hammond's Physical Anthropology and Archaeology and Childe's A Short Introduction to Archaeology. The first named book had also been used in PSA 273, New World Archaeology, given in semester 67-1. In semester 68-1 PSA 273 and PSA 373 were both given with a book common to both reading lists - Kroeber's Cultural and Natural Areas of Native North America. Hammond's book was also on the reading list for PSA 273. Willey and Phillips Method and Theory in American Archaeology has appeared on different courses as has Willey's An Introduction to North American Archaeology. So by some of Dr. Carlson's own criteria his arguments in objection to PSA 474 are refuted. Finally, as between PSA 272 to be given in semester 69-3 and the reading list of the proposed PSA 474 there is only one common book. Hardly a condition for course content overlap.

*SLA*

An inspection of the offerings given to Anthropology majors in the PSA Department also shows very little overlap of reading material with courses given to Archaeology majors, except for the infrequent semesters when either Mr. Hobler or Dr. Carlson have given PSA 172, Anthropological Concepts, or PSA 274, Primitive Economy and Technology.

Dr. Carlson objected to another point raised in the original submission. This was the statement, "As well, Archaeology students would find the course useful" (Senate paper S-253, page 111). Dr. Carlson objected that the material of PSA 474 was covered in other courses for Archaeology students. This is not the case, and indeed Archaeology students might benefit from contact with the study of living human beings and their cultural evolution.

To sum up: the courses given as Archaeology and the courses given as Cultural and Social Anthropology vary widely in their content and reading lists. Specifically, PSA 272 and the proposed PSA 474 are more sequentially related than overlapping in content. PSA 272 stops short of data from living societies and depends for its orientation on tracing cultural evolution through "artifactual, fossil, and contextual evidence." PSA 474 is to rely on examples "taken from contemporary 'primitive' societies . . . to develop a theory of culture change." This appears perfectly reasonable, unless Dr. Carlson would like to argue that cultural evolution stopped somewhere around "the fourth or fifth millennium before Christ."

*Arthur F. Marlowe*

## SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

Appendix A.  
paper 57.58  
Distributed at meeting

To Registrar  
Secretary of Senate  
Subject PSA 474

From D.H. Sullivan, Dean  
Faculty of Arts  
Date September 8, 1969

As requested by Senate, the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee met to re-consider PSA 474. Following is a report of the decision made at a meeting September 8, 1969.

MOTION

Rheumer--Crawford

After a meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Arts in which Professors Hickerson and Carlson participated, the Committee reaffirmed its original recommendation that PSA 474-5 be included in the PSA course offerings. In the light of the long history of deliberations, the Committee further recommends that PSA 474 be offered in the current semester as originally planned.

The Committee also recommends that at such time as the Archaeology unit formally proposes to expand its course offerings, PSA 474 be referred back to the Committee for examination as to its position within the Faculty of Arts.

MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUS

*D. H. Sullivan*

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