ENGLISH 5502: Mentored Composition Teaching

1. Catalogue Description:
   a. 5502 ENG
   b. Mentored Composition Teaching
   c. (3-0-3)
   d. F or S
   e. MENT COMP TEACH
   f. Observation and mentored teaching of a freshman writing class.
   g. Prerequisite: Eng 5500 or permission of the director of composition.
   h. Spring 2005

2. Objectives and Evaluation of the Course:

   a. To provide graduate students with initial experience in teaching composition under the guidance of an English Department faculty mentor.
   
   To provide students with an opportunity to observe a teacher in the college classroom and discuss different styles of and approaches to teaching.
   
   To provide students with a directed forum to discuss teaching ideas with their peers.
   
   To introduce students to methods of evaluating varied levels of writing competency.

   b. Students will keep a teaching/observation journal, produce their own ideal syllabus, and participate in weekly practica conducted by the Director of Composition. In addition, the faculty mentor will provide the student with a written evaluation of at least one class session taught by the student. This course will be graded CR or NC.

   c. NA
   d. NA
   e. NA

3. Outline of Course

   a. Because this is primarily a practical course in observation and practice under the individual guidance of a faculty mentor, a week-by-week outline is not feasible. Weekly course meetings with other students being mentored, led by the Director of Composition, will focus on discussion of students’ experiences and observations, with discussion of varying teaching styles. In addition, students will keep a teaching/observation journal and plan their own ideal syllabus as part of the course meeting portion of the class.
In consultation with mentors, each student will plan and pursue the following activities:
- attend all class meetings
- teach at least six hours
- participate in the grading of at least one assignment
- meet regularly with mentor

b. NA

4. Rationale
a. Purpose and need: This course gives graduate students in English an opportunity to gain firsthand experience in teaching in the college classroom. Many of our graduate students go on to pursue careers as teachers of composition. It is crucial that they gain the practical experience necessary to excel in the classroom. Prepared by ENG 5500 (Practicum), students will be able to watch, learn from, and teach under the supervision of their faculty mentors. The department currently offers no graduate course that fulfills this purpose.

b. The level of professional performance in this course warrants graduate-level credit. Prerequisite: Eng 5500 and permission of the director of composition.

c. This course is not similar to any existing graduate course. Other, more independent teaching experiences build on ENG 5502, whose students may continue their training as Teaching Assistants (competitively awarded).

d. This course will be a requirement for graduate students with a concentration in Composition/Rhetoric.

5. Implementation
a. This course will be assigned to the Director of Composition, who will lead weekly practicum discussions. Each student will also be assigned to an English Department faculty mentor.

b. Additional costs to students: None


6. Community College Transfer: NA

7. Date approved by the department: February 24, 2003

8. Date approved by College Curriculum Committee: April 2, 2003

9. Date approved by CGS: April 9, 2003