

PROGRAM COVENANT

HUMANISM AND SCIENCE

I. SUBJECT MATTER AND GOALS

Humanism and Science is a basic coordinated studies program that shares the goals of all such programs, including an emphasis on developing basic skills of literacy. It is specifically designed to address general questions about the nature of the sciences and the humanities--their common features and their differences--by focussing on questions to which both fields have contributed answers and information. In particular, it will address questions about the nature of the human species, about the differences and similarities between humans and other animals, and about the nature of human language and reason.

The program draws its information from several fields. It will not attempt to distinguish between them formally, and hence all students are required to study all aspects of the program. No student may receive credit for a single topic (such as philosophy or biology) by itself. A student must either enroll for full credit (16 hrs. per quarter) or for a special half-time option. Half-time students should read all seminar books, attend the two book seminars and the Tuesday afternoon lectures, and complete two papers on the readings. An exam may also be required. A student must therefore receive full credit, or half-credit if that option is elected, or no credit.

Students may not enroll for modular courses fall quarter.

To receive credit, a student must satisfy the requirements explained on the separate memo entitled "Credit and Expectations of Students."

Students entering the program are not necessarily expected to have any specific background in the topics studied. By the end of the program they should be able to discuss the several topics and write about them at a level appropriate for college sophomores. Students should be able to write competent, grammatical, and thoughtful essays by the end of the program and they should be able to read books of the same quality as those used during the program.

II. DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

A. The program coordinator, Betty Estes, will assume responsibility for major program business. The other members of the faculty team (Peter Elbow, Burton Guttman and Alan Nasser) will gladly accept other responsibilities that she may delegate to them.

B. All faculty members are responsible for the following:

1. Attend a faculty seminar every Monday afternoon, fully prepared to participate in the discussion.

2. Conduct two regular two-hour seminars each week based on the agreed-upon topics.
3. Conduct and participate in workshops as may be required.
4. Deliver lectures as may be required.
5. Attend lectures and workshops being given by other faculty members or by visitors.
6. Read and evaluate written work by students with reasonable dispatch.
7. Be available at least three hours weekly for student conferences.

C. All faculty members acknowledge that they are scholars in their own right, as well as teachers, and that their independent academic work is important to them individually and necessary to the College, since a teacher who does not engage in such work may soon grow stale and useless to everyone, including himself. Time has been left in the weekly schedule for them to engage in such activities, and they acknowledge that it is legitimate for them to spend this time on their independent work. It is assumed that program work and obligations to students and fellow faculty members will be met first, and personal work cannot be used as an excuse for not satisfying other reasonable expectations.

D. The faculty members of the program acknowledge to one another their common humanity and their human frailties. They agree to take their work seriously, but not too seriously, and to protect and maintain their sense of humor and their sense of joy. They agree to support one another for their mutual peace of mind and happiness. They agree that nothing shall be allowed for long to create so hectic and harried a pace of life that their mutual goals of learning and teaching shall be threatened and that work may be changed by mutual agreement to create a more satisfactory experience for them and for their students.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Evaluations. Students will be evaluated by their own seminar leaders, but evaluative statements from other faculty members in the program will be welcomed and solicited. Evaluations for fall quarter will normally consist of an informal letter letter to the student, including phrases and sentences that will be useful to later evaluation writers. A similar informal evaluation will be written at the end of winter quarter. A formal evaluation will be written at the end of spring quarter (or at the end of a quarter when a student leaves the program). Faculty members commit themselves to writing all evaluations on time, and in particular will leave no evaluations hanging during the next summer, except for Incompletes.

A student who wishes to challenge his/her evaluation should first take the matter up with the seminar leader who wrote the evaluation. If the matter cannot be resolved in this way, the objections should be submitted in writing to the Coordinator, who will then take the matter up with the faculty team.

B. Students leaving the program. A student may be asked to leave the program if his/her behavior is consistently disruptive, antagonistic and inimical to the conduct of the program. A student who is not doing satisfactory work or who seems to be out of touch with the program's goals may be advised to leave but not forced to do so. A student who is asked to leave and wishes to appeal may do so by arranging with the Coordinator to meet with the faculty team and discuss the matter. The decision of the faculty team after this meeting will be binding. The usual avenues of higher appeal in the College remain open, of course.

C. Faculty meetings and seminars. Faculty meetings and seminars will be held at 1:00 p. m. on Mondays. The session will begin with a business meeting that may not last more than one hour. All business will then be set aside and a faculty seminar will begin. Faculty members agree to come to this meeting on time, properly prepared. They also agree that the seminar shall be a time to relax, have a helluva good time, and learn from each other.

D. Evaluations of faculty. Faculty will evaluate one another at some convenient time during winter quarter. They will give one another written evaluations and these will be discussed, if necessary, during a time set aside for the purpose. Evaluations of faculty by students will be solicited and expected at the end of each quarter.

E. Program history. A special box will be kept in L2103. Copies of all materials used in the program will be placed in this box by each faculty member at the time it is used or given out to students. At the end of the year, this material will be put in order, brief descriptive comments will be added if necessary, and it will be assembled into a program history with some additional narration and evaluation by Peter Elbow.

F. Changes in the program. Changes may be made in the program or in these rules at any time by consensus of the faculty. Program planning shall be the primary responsibility of the faculty, but student suggestions are welcomed at any time. Specific suggestions by students and expression of their interest in various options will be solicited in the winter quarter in preparation for projects to be undertaken in the spring.

Betty Estes

Peter Elbow

Burton Guttman

Alan Nasser

18 September 1980