

November 2011

Baruch College

Chancellor's University Report – Part A: Academic Matters

PART A: ACADEMIC MATTERS

The following recommendations of the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum were approved at the Mildred and George Weissman School of Arts and Sciences Faculty Meeting on October 6, 2011, effective the Fall 2012 semester, pending approval of the Board of Trustees.

Section AIV: New Courses

AIV:10.1a. Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions

Course Number: JRN 3450

Title: Journalistic Blogging

Hours: 3.0

Credits: 3.0

Prerequisite: ENG 2150 and JRN 3050

Course Description: This course introduces students to the world of journalistic blogging and social media in all its diversity, from exploring complex policy, social and economic issues to offering commentary on local art exhibits, music clubs, and local food stands. Students will learn techniques for making their online writing engaging, how to make a point quickly, and how to develop ideas and find an original voice while hewing to journalism's commitment to accuracy and clarity. The specific focus of the journalistic coverage – for example, culture, politics, sports – will vary from semester to semester.

Rationale: The enormous and growing number of blogs offer students many opportunities to “publish” online, which can help them build portfolios, call attention to themselves and gain confidence. Virtually every major news organization offers blogs – sometimes many dozens of them. Some are open to outside contributors; others are a place for readers to comment on staff-written posts. Where else can students engage in a rapid back and forth with some of the world's experts in a variety of fields? Beyond the well-established blogs, students, organizations and freelance writers can start their own at virtually no cost. Blogging can accommodate many styles of writing – as Twitter has recently demonstrated – but all of them must be powerful, persuasive, dynamic – and quick to engage readers' attention. A course in writing for blogs will help students shape their styles to different blogs, develop a distinctive voice – and yet remain true to the fundamental principles of accuracy and clarity.

Although the focus will vary from semester to semester, this course is not repeatable. JRN 3450 will be offered once per year with a projected enrollment of 24 students. It may be used

as an elective within the Journalism major and minor, the Business Communication major (Business Writing), the Business Writing minor, or as a general elective for the BA, BBA, or BS degrees.

AIV:10.2a. Department of Natural Sciences

Course Number: BIO 3035

Title: Introduction to Molecular Biotechnology

Hours: 6.0 (2 lecture hours; 4 lab hours)

Credits: 4.0

Prerequisite: BIO 2010, CHM 2003, and permission of the instructor.

Course Description: Training in molecular biotechnology is essential for an expanding list of disciplines that have found modern biology-based skills of critical importance in pursuing research goals in areas ranging from microbiology to plant and animal sciences to chemical engineering and biotech business. This course presents an overview of the techniques and underlying theory of tissue culture and genetic engineering in the area of biotechnology. While this course is geared to students in the natural sciences, business students in biotechnology management and biotechnology law, with science interests, would find this course valuable.

Rationale: This course fills a gap in the department's course offerings. Although geared toward students in the natural sciences, it will also prepare students in Biotechnology Management and Biotechnology Law. BIO 3035 will be offered once per year with a projected enrollment of 25 students. This course may be used as an elective within the Biology major and minor. It may also be used as a general elective for the BA, BBA, or BS degrees.

Section AV: Changes in Existing Courses

The following recommendation of the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum was approved at the Mildred and George Weissman School of Arts and Sciences Faculty Meeting on May 10, 2011, effective the Spring 2012 semester, pending approval of the Board of Trustees.

AV:10.1a. Change in Course Title, Description, and Prerequisites

FROM: MTH 3100 Selected Topics in <u>Finite Mathematics</u>		TO: MTH 3100 Selected Topics in <u>Discrete Mathematics</u>	
Description	Mathematical models of real problems are constructed and solved. The actual cases considered will be selected from the fields of ecology, economics, political science, psychology and/or sociology, depending upon	Description	This course introduces the <u>fundamental and unifying concepts of discrete mathematics. Topics covered divide into three categories: (1) fundamental concepts of mathematics: definitions, proofs, sets, functions, elementary number theory; (2)</u>

	student interest.		<u>discrete structures: graphs, counting; (3) discrete probability theory. The underlying goal is to teach students about careful mathematics: precisely stating assertions about well-defined mathematical objects and verifying those assertions using mathematically sound proofs.</u> <u>This course may not be used within the Mathematics major.</u>
Prerequisites	MTH 2100	Prerequisites	MTH 2205, MTH 2207 or MTH 2610

Rationale: Although this course was approved during the Spring 2011 semester, it was inadvertently left off the June 2011 CUR submission. There are several reasons for reinstating the long-forgotten course in discrete mathematics. The current undergraduate 2000- and 3000-level curriculum offered by the mathematics department is mainly calculus-based and consists mostly of courses in continuous mathematics. Students enrolled in 4000-level courses, such as MTH 4120 (Probability), MTH 4150 (Combinatorics), MTH 4320 (Fundamental Algorithms), or MTH 4200 (Number Theory) do not have a proper background in creating and writing sound mathematical proofs, or the necessary acquaintance with basic counting techniques and discrete probability. A 3000-level discrete mathematics course will bridge this gap in students' knowledge, and simultaneously provide the instructors of 4000-level courses with precious time to reach and cover more advanced topics in their syllabi. Students preparing for graduate work in mathematics, the teaching of mathematics, and certain other quantitative fields should have acquaintance with discrete mathematics.

MTH 3100 will be offered once per year with a projected enrollment of 40 students. This course may be used within the Tier III minor in Mathematics or as a general elective for the BA, BBA, or BS degrees.