

Concourse Program

Concourse is a highly structured and integrated program for freshmen covering the standard core curriculum in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and humanities. The structure of Concourse follows that of the standard curriculum, with scheduled lectures, recitations, problem sets, and quizzes. Small class size (limited to 60 students) and extensive personal interaction with senior faculty and tutors provide students with the intimate atmosphere of a small school while retaining all of the excitement and resources of the large institution that is MIT.

Personnel

Members of the Concourse faculty and staff for AY2005 were Dr. John Lewis, senior lecturer, Department of Mathematics; Mr. Jeremy Mason, undergraduate, Department of Physics; Dr. Jeremy Orloff, lecturer, School of Science; Dr. Robert M. Rose, professor, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Dr. Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, lecturer, Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies; Jorg Scholvin, graduate student, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Benjamin Stephens, graduate student, Department of Mathematics; Dr. Jeremy M. Wolfe, senior lecturer, Brain and Cognitive Science and professor of ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; Mr. David Zych, lecturer, School of Engineering. Fourteen undergraduates in the fall and nine undergraduates in the spring were employed as graders and teaching assistants in chemistry, physics, calculus, and differential equations.

In AY2006, Michael Jensen will replace Jeremy Mason in 3.091 Recitations.

Enrollment

Orientation week registration, although not as overwhelming as last year, again made it necessary to run a lottery in order to bring our student population below 60. Fall and spring enrollments were nearly identical to the previous year, with 57 freshmen registered for fall term and 38 in the spring.

Teaching and Curriculum

Subject 9.00 Introduction to Psychology (HASS-D, Category 4, CI-H) continues to be highly successful. As in past years, we have had to run three sections of this course because of the CI requirement.

Subject 21.731 Writing and Experience (HASS, CI-HW) was again offered during the spring term.

SP.321 Madness and Literature (HASS-D, Category 1, CI-H) was taught this past spring. This course, part of a four-course rotation, was specifically designed for Concourse by Jeremy Wolfe and Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno to complement our fall term offering, Introduction to Psychology. The aim of the class, as the title suggests, was to encourage students to investigate the topic of abnormal behavior through the lens of literature.

Our Science Core offerings remained unchanged, with 3.091, 8.01/8.012, and 18.02 taught in the fall. In addition, we offered recitations in 18.01A and 18.02A. Due to budgetary constraints, we were unable to offer the lectures in these two courses. During the spring, 8.02 and 18.03 were offered.

Accomplishments

This past year saw the publication of an important new biography of the American poet e.e. cummings, *e. e. cummings: A Biography*, by Concourse instructor Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno.

Jaime Heffernan '08 was awarded second prize in Freshman Writing for her essay, which was written as part of her work this past spring in 21W.731 Writing and Experience.

Robert M. Rose

Director

Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

More information about the Concourse Program can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/concourse/>.