

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 (60 students maximum) and extensive personal interaction with senior faculty and tutors provide students with the intimate atmosphere of a small school while retaining the excitement and resources of a large institution like MIT.

Personnel Information

Members of the Concourse faculty and staff for 2005–2006 were Dr. John Lewis, senior lecturer, Department of Mathematics; Michael Jensen, undergraduate, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Kathleen MacArthur, MIT Writing Program; Dr. Jeremy Orloff, lecturer, School of Science; Dr. Robert M. Rose, professor, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Jorg Scholvin, graduate student, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Benjamin Stephens, graduate student, Department of Mathematics; Dr. Steven Strang, MIT Writing Program; Dr. Jeremy M. Wolfe, senior lecturer, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and professor of ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; and David Zych, lecturer, School of Engineering. Undergraduates—fourteen in the fall and nine in the spring—were employed as graders and teaching assistants in chemistry, physics, calculus, and differential equations.

Several staffing changes are slated for the coming year. Kay Furman (2007) will replace Michael Jensen for 3.091 Introduction to Solid-State Chemistry recitations; Professor Sekazi Mtingwa will replace David Zych for 8.01 Physics I and 8.02 Physics II lectures; Dr. Sahana Murthy will replace Jorg Scholvin for 8.01 and 8.02 recitations; Dr. Wyn Kelley will replace Dr. Kathleen MacArthur in the literature/human mind rotation (SP.322 Prohibition and Permission will be offered in the coming year); and Andreas Malmendier will replace Ben Stephens in 18.02 Calculus and 18.03 Differential Equations recitations.

Enrollment

Interest in the Program continues. Registration was 43 for the fall term and 28 for the spring term.

Teaching and Curriculum

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.

21W.731 Writing and Experience (HASS, CI-HW) was again offered during the spring term. This course will probably not be offered in the coming year.

SP.317 Memory and Literature (HASS-D, Category 1, CI-H) was offered in the spring term and was team-taught by an experimental psychologist (Professor Jeremy Wolfe) and a member of the MIT Writing Program (Dr. Kathleen MacArthur).

All other Concourse offerings were as in previous years. In the year to come, the literature/mind rotation continues: SP.322 Prohibition and Permission will be offered in place of SP.317 Memory and Literature.

Accomplishments

We note with pleasure two awards to members of the Concourse community: Chelsea Grimm, class of 2009, received second prize in the Ilona Karmel Writing Competition, and Yao-Chung King, class of 2006, won the Karl Taylor Compton Prize.

Robert M. Rose

Director

Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

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