

English course designed to help "culturally deprived"

by Theresa Reily
Staff Writer

English 112 is being given a new facet this semester in Dr. Richard Hood's pilot program.

The course is designed to increase Elon's "culturally deprived" students' writing applications while helping to decrease Alamance County's illiteracy rate.

Hood taught traditional English 112 and found himself dissatisfied not only with his teaching method, but also with his approach in relating to the students the purpose behind taking the class.

According to Hood, the intention of English 112 is to apply the basic writing skills learned in English 111

The students practice critical thinking in every class; they have to. Part of Hood's teaching method is to let the students teach and grade themselves.

During class, students discuss writing, how to develop topics from their involvement with the literacy program, what constitutes an 'A' paper, how to integrate all this knowledge, and other topics as they become germane. This allows learning to write before they start.

What they write about comes from their encounters in their other class. Students choose to help in one of several classes offered by Alamance Community College Adult Basic Education. These programs include English as a second

The rationale of Hood's approach is for the students to learn how to make writing grow out of and reflect their own experiences.

to the type of writing that needs to be done, i.e. business and analytical research.

In his new class, that application becomes pertinent because the students generate their own writing projects based on experiences gained from the time they spend being a teacher's aide for the Alamance Community College Adult Basic Education program.

The rationale of this approach, Hood explains, is that the students learn "how to make writing grow out of and reflect their own experiences." A secondary outcome is the exposure to a circle of society the students ordinarily would not have regular contact with, allowing them to become less "culturally deprived."

language, sheltered workshop (which involves teaching the retarded), and the GED program.

Once a week for three hours or twice a week for an hour and a half, the students become teachers.

Hood's students are enthusiastic about the whole idea of writing with cultural awareness.

Robin Taylor thinks it is a fun way of learning, the writing becomes more meaningful to Chrissy Lippard, and Steven Davis feels class has a purpose. These freshmen are students in the two English 112 classes Hood teaches and both sections are full.

Although this class is an experiment, the results are already promising. The outcome Hood would like is to open more sections next year.



Sisters to be: Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority welcome their new pledges on bid day last Sunday

Journalism class researches immigrants

by Marlena Dare
Staff Writer

A new class has emerged at Elon this semester. The class is entitled 'Research Methods of Journalism,' and it is taught by Dr. Jerry Adams.

The class is a 400 level course, and it mainly teaches students research methods which help them complete a semester-long experiment.

The topic the students are studying is immigrants in the community. The goal is to determine the international character of the community. Trying to discover the attitudes of and regarding residents of foreign background, what they think of society and their feelings on politics are just a few of the

questions the students will be trying to answer.

The community that the class is researching is defined as the area surrounding Elon College and overlapping into Alamance and Guilford counties.

The majority of the research deals with immigrants who come and work on North Carolina farms during the peak harvest times. The class has already discovered that there are approximately 170 Mexican migrants who work in tobacco, corn and soybean fields at harvest time.

Students are researching how many come here and then possibly stay year round.

The research also includes things such as how immigrants cope in our society and what they think of

it and how the locals feel about them being here.

The proposal that has been made is directed toward measuring, in human terms, the international "content" of Alamance County. The research will be done in four types: historical, government documents and statistics, in-depth interviews and attitudinal surveys.

The class of 20, is divided into 6 groups of three or more, and each group is assigned a topic to study about the immigrants.

This course is unique in the fact that Adams has given the students a focus to go on and then leaves it up to their instincts to find the rest of the needed information.

According to sophomore Wilma Dixon, most of their leads come from endless telephone calls and a few visits.

"I like the hands-on-experience because I learn more about research methods than what the book teaches. I've learned how to work on my own and teach myself how to get the best results from following leads," Dixon said.

The final goal of the class is to put together a booklet, and possibly a video, that describes what they found and explain how they went about doing it. This research could possibly go on to other colleges and institutions.

"Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run."

—Mark Twain



6/12 oz. N/R LONGNECK Btls.

\$6.33



12/12 oz. Cans

\$3.30

Family Drug Center

402 W. Haggard
Elon College, NC 27244

584-4257

(Located Behind Pizza Hut)



\$3.59

(Walking Distance From Campus)



\$3.59

Every Day Low Prices
Best In Town