

UNIVERSITY SENATE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Executive Committee

Date: January 29, 2006

**REVISION OF COURSE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE UNDERGRADUATE
FACULTY-INITIATED TOPICS COURSES U UNI 150 AND U UNI 350**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the revised course descriptions for UUNI150 and UUNI350 be approved.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.
3. That the revisions take effect and the online version of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* be updated immediately upon the President's approval.

Rationale:

It was pointed out to the Executive Committee, the Governance Council and the Undergraduate Academic Council that the current course descriptions for UUNI150 and UUNI350 do not make sufficiently clear that faculty wishing to offer a topics course through these University-wide offerings must have the topic approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee of UAC and that this approval be reported to the UAC.

The Executive Committee also felt it important to clarify that the approval of a faculty member's proposal for a course under these topics offerings is for a specific semester, not in perpetuity. Where there is a desire for an offering to continue, normally the course would be picked up by a department or school or would be proposed to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee and the UAC as a standing U Uni course, with its own discrete course number. Therefore, the revised course descriptions state explicitly that to repeat the course under the U Uni 150 or 350 rubrics requires a new application to the committee.

The proposed revisions (changes highlighted) are intended to prevent any future confusion about the approval process for these courses.

U Uni 150 Selected Interdisciplinary Topics (1-4; as approved)

Experimental class, the subject varying with instructors and the term offered. Course is designed to present a large body of information without expecting a mastery of detail (e.g., as in a survey course) or to present general theoretical or methodological approaches (e.g., as in a foundations course). See special announcements of courses to be offered under this heading. May be repeated when content differs. Prerequisite(s): The topic must be approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee of the Undergraduate Academic Council and reported to the UAC; the topic must also be approved by the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education; permission of instructor to register for the class. Approval is for one semester only; a faculty member wishing to offer the course again through U Uni 150 must reapply to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee.

U Uni 350 Selected Interdisciplinary Topics (1-4; as approved)

Experimental class, the subject varying with instructors and the term offered. Course content should be beyond the introductory or survey level and the course should require prior academic achievement and/or experience related to the topic. See special announcements of courses to be offered under this heading. May be repeated when content differs. Prerequisite(s): Topic must be approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee of the Undergraduate Academic Council and reported to the UAC; the topic must also be approved by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education; permission of instructor to register for the class. Approval is for one semester only; a faculty member wishing to offer the course again through U Uni 350 must reapply to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee.