

Report from the Curriculum Working Group

Spring 2014

level courses that the CWG strongly recommends we develop: a multi-genre writing course; EN 205, along the lines of the current *How to Write a Sentence*—an appealing course for both majors and non-

HONORS—There have been some bumps in the road regarding honors, and so we recommend some procedural modifications.

Honors will be awarded to those senior capstones that receive “A” or “A+” written by students with the requisite GPA in the English major. Works of distinction (written by students who do not have the necessary GPA; these works are bound for the department library in PMH 313) will also need to earn an “A” or “A+.” All students will write works of the same length (25 pages) in their capstones; and they will not declare their intention to graduate with honors in English. Rather, the faculty teaching the capstones will decide, on the basis of major GPA and the merit of the work being produced, if they wish to recommend the student for honors (or the work for distinction). At that point, the student will be informed of the nomination; a “defense” or meeting with the student, the capstone faculty member, and a second reader will be scheduled. That second reader—per current practice—will serve as the “eyes of the department” and will be selected as second readers are currently selected—i.e. by the chair, with any useful guidance from the capstone faculty member and with the wider view of workload distribution issues in mind.

--the regular teaching load of NTT faculty should be only one 300-level course a year. And their courses are to be determined after tenured and tenure-track faculty have been assigned their courses.

--hold annual group advising meeting for English majors.

--help us do a better job in our capacity as advisors. In the department meeting that precedes advising week each semester, devote time to an advising discussion.

--during registration, advertise courses from other departments that might be of interest to our majors.

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--several of us wished to dispense with period distribution requirements altogether.

--a junior year essay.

--a portfolio of work.

--a senior year lecture series. Students are required to attend a certain number of lectures, and write reflection pieces on them. These pieces could be turned into advisors or to the Associate Chair.