

Annual Report on the Freshman English Program, 1998-99

Christy Desmet (Director of Freshman English)

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The Freshman English Committee (FEC) met twice during the 1998-99 academic year. During this time, its members were Christy Desmet (Chair), Kathy Houff (Secretary), Michael G. Moran, Michael Hendrick, David Payne, David Gants, Don McCreary, Michelle Ballif, and T. A. Representatives Matt Kozusko, Lisa Boyd, and Bill Prather.

During the 1998-99 academic year, the Freshman English (FE) Program taught the following number of sections and students (broken down into regular and international sections of English 1101, 1102, and 1030).

Regular Sections (sections/students)

	ENGL 1101	ENGL 1102	ENGL 1030
Summer 1998	3/49	3/49	1/19
Fall 1998	106/2297	41/898	8/173
Spring 1999	25/484	99/1913	20/403
TOTAL	134/2830	143/2860	29/595

International Sections (sections/students)

	ENGL 1101	ENGL 1102	ENGL 1030
Summer 1998	0/0	0/0	0/0
Fall 1998	2/27	1/11	0/0
Spring 1999	2/11	1/7	1/14
TOTAL	4/38	2/18	1/14

The total number of sections for Freshman English in 1998-99 was 313; the total number of students was 6355. The average number of students per section during the year was 20.5 in regular sections, 10.0 in international sections. The combined average was 20.3.

Teacher Demographics

- 84 T. A.'s taught 229 sections of FE (these numbers do not include T. A. units assigned to the Writing Center, for Computer Support, for sophomore support, for ENGL 3000 support, or for teaching

sophomore sections).

- Four tenured or tenure-track professors taught Freshman English classes. Christy Desmet taught one section of ENGL 1101 summer quarter; Don McCreary taught one section of ENGL 1102 (ESL) Fall semester; David Gants taught one section of ENGL 1101 ON-LINE Fall semester; and Bill Provost taught one section of ENGL 1102 spring semester.
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- A total of twenty-one instructors taught eighty-three sections of FE this year. Here is the breakdown by semester:

Summer 1998	3 instructors taught	3 sections
Fall 1998	14 instructors taught	41 sections
Spring 1999	14 instructors taught	39 sections

Program Development

A. Experimental Sections of Freshman English

Four experimental 1102 classes were approved and offered. Two of these classes focused on War Literature and two of them focused on post-colonialism.

B. Freshman English ON-LINE

Starting in summer quarter of 1997, we began teaching ON-LINE sections of ENGL 1101 and 1102. We continued to offer ON-LINE sections during Fall Semester 1998 and Spring Semester 1999. Six sections of ENGL 1101 ON-LINE were offered during Fall semester and three sections of ENGL 1102 ON-LINE were offered during Spring Semester. In addition, during Spring 1999 Lisa Boyd taught an experimental "hybrid" class that met on-line once a week and face-to-face twice a week. Since GOTI's development of ON-LINE Freshman English classes ended in Spring 1999, FE has taken over responsibility for the ON-LINE classes. In the Spring meeting, the Freshman English Committee voted unanimously to make ON-LINE sections of ENGL 1101, 1102, and 1030 a regular part of the FE offerings. Four sections of ENGL 1101 ON-LINE will be offered in Fall 1999 and we hope to offer four sections of ENGL 1102 in Spring 2000.

C. CAI Instruction in Freshman English

Beginning in Fall semester 1998, the FE Program mainstreamed CAI instruction into all sections of ENGL 1101, 1102, and 1030. In Spring 1998 the College of Arts and Sciences had approved a proposal written by Christy Desmet for FY 1998-99 that provided 12 release units (\$36,000) for Teaching Assistants to act as Computer Support Personnel. The Computer Support Personnel were: Lisa Boyd, Paul Farr, Matt Kozusko, Keith O'Neill, Penn Perry, Bill Prather, Clai Rice, Greg Timmons, Karen Weekes, Mike Wilson, and Shannon Yentzer.

Using a web-based orientation package and pedagogical materials developed in Spring 1998, the Computer Support Personnel conducted orientations for all sections of ENGL 1101, 1102, and 1030 in Fall semester. In

Dr. Payne, Computer Support Personnel, and David Gants (Coordinator, FE Program, 1998-1999) provided invaluable help and support; Dr. David Gants donated his time to develop the use of ICQ as a messaging system that enables smooth communication between Computer Support Personnel and teachers in the Computer Labs. We are grateful to both for their help and expertise.

A survey of teacher response indicates that the CAI program has been successful, and that FE teachers generally appreciated both the orientation provided to students and the continued support that allowed teachers to focus on writing rather than on technical problems. The English Department has provided the necessary support to continue this program in FY 1999-2000. The web-based orientation will be revised for ease of use (by Andrew Burke and students) and we will continue to collect and disseminate pedagogical materials. Thus, the University of Georgia FE Program has become one of a very few large composition programs to make computer pedagogy a central feature of all freshman writing classes.

Dr. Payne, Computer Coordinator, reports that

For the Computers and Writing 99 Online Conference, Lisa Boyd (Coordinator), Andrew Burke, Mary Carney, and William Prather offered a presentation entitled "Re-placing the Teacher?: On-Line Composition Courses and the Transformation of Tradition." Their very impressive website and a transcript of the conference on-line discussion are available at: <http://parallel.park.uga.edu/~cw99/>.

E. Assessment

In FY 1998-99, The FE Program was asked by VPAA Jim Fletcher to study the department's placement procedures for Freshman English. This study is ongoing.

F. Teacher Training and Support

Orientation again included an extended orientation program, designated as the Composition Pedagogy Practicum and consisting of weekly class meetings. Dr. Christy Desmet and Kathy Houff taught this class. T. A.'s in the class submitted Computer Lab lesson plans, teaching philosophies, transcripts of conferences with students and evaluations/observations of experienced T.A.'s as part of their coursework. (The course website can be found at <http://virtual.park.uga.edu/cdesmet/class/engl6910/>.)

T. A. mentors Lance Wilder and Mary Carney and Lance Wilder ran various workshops, many of which supported our New CAI proposal. Topics included:

- "Grading Freshman Essays." Teaching Assistantship Orientation Workshop, August 1998.
- "Balancing Roles: T. A.'s as Students, Teachers, and Researchers." University of Georgia 1998 Workshop for Graduate Teaching/Laboratory Assistants, August 1998.
- "Dealing with Difficult Students and Issues: Some Guidelines and Resources at UGA" (with Kathy Houff). Teaching Assistant Mentor Workshop Series, October 1998.
- "Idea Swap: Exchanging Ideas with Experienced Teachers of English." Teaching Assistant Mentor Workshop Series, October 1998.
- "Teaching With Technology." Teaching Assistant Mentor Workshop Series, January 1999.
- "Promoting Academic Honesty in Your Classroom." Teaching Assistant Mentor Workshop Series, April 1999.
- "Streamlining Your Grading: Clai Rice Presents Using Grading Software and Publishing Grades on the Web." Teaching Assistant Mentor Workshop Series, April 1999.

T. A. Awards and Activities

The following eight Teaching Assistants were nominated by the Department for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards given by OISD: Lisa Boyd, Frank Bramlett, David Brauer, Jeanine Casler, Margaret Crumpton, Betsy Inglesby, Penn Perry, and Clai Rice. All the nominees received the award. Sam Prestridge was nominated for, and awarded, the Excellence in Teaching Award. For the second year in a row, an English Department T. A. has received this award, which is the highest teaching honor given to UGA Teaching Assistants.

We were, despite fierce University-wide competition, awarded an unprecedented four TA mentor positions from OISD for 1999-2000: David Brauer, Jeanine Casler, Margaret Crumpton, and Penn Perry.

Student Events

In FY 1998-99, we had three grade appeals. Three academic dishonesty incidents were submitted to Academic Affairs, resulting in conviction in all three cases. On a brighter note, the three Barnett Award winners for this year are Jonathan King (ENGL 1101, Julia Elliott), Lori Guimond (ENGL 1102, April Nixon), and Megan J. Hall (ENGL 1030, Thomas Pynn).