

Grade point inflation

(Earth News) - Inflation seems to be creeping up everywhere lately, even in the grading books of college professors.

Colleges and universities throughout the nation are admitting that it is getting increasingly easy to earn A's, and that B's are rapidly replacing C's as the average mark.

At Harvard, half the graduates in 1961 received their degrees with honors, but by 1972, two-thirds were exiting the university with honors.

In California, officials of the California State University and College system have been investigating what they consider

to be "lax grading policies" among many faculty members, allowing more students than ever to earn A's and B's.

And, in Florida, a survey by the *Miami Herald* shows that during the last four years grades at four major campuses in that state have risen by as much as 13 per cent.

Meanwhile college entrance examination scores nationwide have been dropping. The Herald concludes that students are not "getting smarter", but that higher education is in the midst of a phenomenon it calls "grade inflation."

Audit privileges extended

It's no longer necessary to be a registered student to gain the advantages of sitting in on a regular class at the University of Alberta.

People from outside of the university community are being invited to apply for auditing privileges in subjects that interest them.

Auditing privileges allow a person to take a regular university course for general interest without receiving credit towards a university degree.

Auditors do not have to possess normal course pre-requisites. They attend classes, can do reading assignments and -- if given

permission by the instructor -- can participate in class discussions. They do not, however, submit written assignments or sit for examinations.

Previous to a recent decision made by the university's General Faculties Council, auditing privileges were extended only to registered University of Alberta students. Now they are available to anyone, provided there is sufficient room in the course to be audited.

Courses in quota faculties -- such as Law, Medicine and Dentistry -- are not open to auditors.

Audit registration for on-campus courses takes place during the first week of classes, September 9-13. The first stop is the Registrar's Office which provides the necessary forms and

a course timetable. Then approval must be obtained from the course instructor, the chairman of the department offering the course and the dean of the appropriate faculty.

Audit registrations are now being accepted for courses offered by the University of Alberta in centres outside of Edmonton. For these, registration material can be picked up at the Registrar's Office or ordered from there by mail.

The deadline for all audit registration is Wednesday, September 18.

Audit fees are \$50 for a full course and \$25 for a half course.

Enquiries for further information should be made to the University of Alberta Registrar's Office; the phone number is 432-3113.

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ROOM 256 SUB

Senate appoints Neil Henry as executive officer

The University of Alberta Senate will soon have a new executive officer.

Neil Henry, who has been assistant dean of men and foreign student advisor at the university for the past two years, assumes the Senate's executive office on September 1. He succeeds William Thorsell, who became the Senate's first executive officer in 1972.

Thorsell has accepted a position as special assistant to the dean at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University.

The senate, at the University of Alberta, acts as a link between the public and the university -- as a kind of 'public lobby'. The executive officer coordinates the activities of the senate.

Henry, 33, is active both at the university and in the community. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Arts degrees from the University of Alberta and is currently completing a Doctor of Philosophy thesis in English literature for Queen's University in Ontario.

He is active in the community as a participant in the Edmonton Cross-Cultural Learner Centre and sits as chairman of the education

committee for the Alberta Committee of International Agencies.

Henry was born on March 3, 1941 in Scottburgh, South Africa and came to Canada in 1953.

As an undergraduate student at the University of Alberta he won a number of scholarships and received a teaching fellowship in 1964. He was on the Queen's University Honor Roll in 1968 and 1969 and received Canada Council Doctoral Fellowships in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971.

As foreign student advisor at the university, Henry counselled individual foreign students, negotiating on their behalf with all levels of the university administration. He was also involved in efforts to help the foreign students develop relationships with the community and also to help the community -- especially through the public school system -- use the foreign students as a valuable human resource.

As assistant dean of men, Henry was involved with the University of Alberta local committee of Canadian University Service Overseas, the largest and most successful of CUSO's Canadian components.

Henry is married and has three children.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COURSES ON EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION

Int D 346
Introduction to Eastern Europe and the USSR (Arts Faculty)

Int D 546
Eastern European and Soviet Studies (Honors and Graduate seminar)

T TR 11-12:20 / TB 121 Full Year

Course coordinators: Dr. I. Moravcik (Economics) & Dr. L. Kosinski (Geography)
Registration Area: Humanities Centre, Room 2 - 29

First Lecture (Sept. 10) will be OPEN to ALL students
Special Lecture on Sept. 17 by Dr. Oskar Anweiler of Ruhr University, West Germany on: EDUCATION AND POLITICS IN THE PRE-STALIN PERIOD.

Int D 346 is accepted as an option or as a course in subjects of concentration in one of the following disciplines: Anthropology, History, Geography, Economics, Slavic Languages, Political Science and Philosophy.

Lectures and seminars are given by University and visiting specialists in anthropology, east-west trade and commerce, economics, education, fine arts, geography, history, international affairs, languages, law, literature, medicine, philosophy, politics, psychology, science, sociology, and technology.