

Science, math courses branch out

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

Students who don't consider themselves the "math or science type" but have an interest or need to take some of these classes are in luck. Two new sequences designed for liberal arts majors are premiering fall term.

"Science in Society" is the name of a chemistry sequence that counts as a cluster or as stand-alones. The math department sequence, MATH 105, 106, 107, satisfies both stand-alone requirements and the B.S. math proficiency requirement.

The science sequence will be taught by chemistry professors Hayes Griffith, Diane Hawley and Geraldine Richmond. The courses will focus on current issues in science in a non-mathematical format intended for non-science majors.

Some of the topics will be:

- Preservation and restoration of the quality of the environment and devising sensible approaches to recycling.
- How drugs and diseases affect our bodies, including AIDS, cancer and chemical dependency.
- Balances between population control, chemical control of disease and the ability of the world to produce food.

- Healthful living and choices in personal habits and nutrition.
- Energy use, sensible consumption, and new energy sources.

The new math sequence will break away from the tradition of lower division math courses, where the emphasis has become a drilling of the basic skills. Instead, it will pose real world problems first, and then the relevant mathematics will be developed.

The courses will be based on a successful text titled *For All Practical Purposes: Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics*. The text attempts to bring the excitement of contemporary mathematical thinking to non-specialists, as well as helping them develop the capacity to engage in logical thinking and to read critically the technical information we are all bombarded with.

The prerequisite for the math sequence is MATH 095 or placement in MATH 111. Students who want to get a head start on the courses can take a pilot section of MATH 105 summer term.

For more information on the science sequence, contact the chemistry department. Further information on the math sequence, and how it may fit in with math courses already taken, is available through the math department or academic advising.

BUY-BACK

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buy-back prices. Old editions usually have no value and consequently will not be bought back by the bookstore. On rare occasions a teacher may decide to use an old edition.

"Buy-back prices are not an arbitrary decision," Williams said. "The bookstore has a very systematic way of determining book prices. We try to be a resource for students and faculty members."

The Smith Family Bookstore on 13th Avenue, one of its two Eugene locations, never reaches 50 percent as a buy-back price and almost always goes by the national wholesale price.

Misa Smith, Smith Family Bookstore owner, said her bookstore only gives a higher buy-back price if the book is expected to see a large demand. Smith Family does have more variety for non-course books than the University bookstore.

Williams also said the University bookstore gives some of the best deals in the country and the 9 percent discount is a

rare feature among college bookstores.

Only about 25 bookstores in the country give money back for used books, Williams said.

One of the bookstores that does give money back is the University of Washington bookstore, which operates in a co-operative relationship with the University of Washington. It gives a patronage rebate at the end of the year to students who save their book receipts by mailing check to students during the summer.

The University of Oregon used to run as a co-operative but changed to a non-profit organization to avoid paperwork complications and other such hassles.

The Washington State University bookstore also gives a 9 percent discount. Greg Moore, book and supply division manager for the Washington State University bookstore, said the University of Washington, Oregon State University and the University of Oregon are the only universities within the two states that give a refund for used books.

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INITIATIVE

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Measure 5 reaches its second phase in the 1993-95 biennium the system will lose additional \$150 million. Carlson said about \$30 million will come out of the University's coffers.

The Oregon Fair Share plan would recover \$986 million of the projected \$1.03 billion shortfall for the 1993-95 biennium, according to Legislative Revenue Office estimates. The state would still be obligated to make up the balance.

Joy Marshall, Lane County organizer for Oregon Fair Share, said Measure 5's across-the-board cuts gave most of the tax relief to income-producing properties, like businesses.

"The lion's share of the relief went to income-producing property, like timber, banks, and utilities," Marshall said. "They're the ones getting the windfall."

During 1990-1991, homeowners paid \$24 million more than they did before Measure 5 was passed. At the same time, income-producing properties got a \$68 million break.

Marshall said the split-roll tax would give homeowners the relief they were asking for when they voted for Measure 5.

"The majority of the people voted to get homeowner relief," Marshall said. "It's ridiculous to give businesses the same amount of relief we give

homeowners. It will have a recessionary effect on many communities."

But Gary Carlson, vice-president of Associated Oregon Industries, said the Oregon Fair Share plan would damage the state's economic vitality.

"It's a partial solution that would set us apart as a state that taxes industry twice as much as homes," Carlson said. "The split-roll would make the state less attractive as a place to do business."

Carlson also took issue with figures that place businesses in the same category as residential property. Income-producing property receives about 59 percent of the tax relief — combining the two makes it appear that businesses are getting an unfair portion of Measure 5 cuts.

Carlson said tax relief that goes to residential property ends up in the pocketbooks of individuals, not corporations.

"Total property tax relief is actually about one-half business and one-half individual," he said.

The split-roll initiative plan would also require the state to provide relief to renters. The Legislative Revenue Office estimates that the renter relief would be about \$278 million in the 1993-95 biennium.

The split-roll initiative needs 89,000 signatures by July 3 to make it onto the November ballot. Marshall said the group has so far gathered about 50,000 signatures.

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