

Seminars explore diverse topics

■ **CLASSES:** Freshmen are offered 12 courses which use a small setting to examine subjects such as plagues

By Laura Cadiz
Higher Education Reporter

Next term, freshmen and first-term transfer students can learn how to avoid infectious diseases, study homosexuality and find creative ways to make money.

These are some of the opportunities available through the 12 Freshman Seminars offered winter term.

Created in 1984, Freshman Seminars were designed to establish a marketplace of ideas where students learn to sharpen their writing, verbal and critical reasoning skills.

With a maximum class population of 20, the small class size is the main benefit of the seminars, instructors said.

"In a small class you can actually have a dialogue," said R. Kelly Matchett-Morris, instructor, University Housing. "You get to know people by name, not just a number."

Diseases such as AIDS and malaria will be studied and discussed in "Plagues: The Past, Present and Future of Infectious Diseases."

"We will use the subject of infectious diseases to examine important ideas and issues from the

life sciences and other disciplines," said Daniel Udovic, associate professor of biology.

Students will examine the spread of disease and how epidemics can be prevented, Udovic said. Rather than teaching the class from a biology standpoint, Udovic said he plans to approach plagues and diseases from a wide range of perspectives.

"I want students to know that if they want to look into diseases, they don't have to be a biologist," he said.

Ironically, Udovic doesn't conduct research of plagues or infectious diseases in his work. It's an area of his personal interest.

A safe atmosphere will be the setting for the class "Homosexuality in the '90's: Development and Societal Issues," said Matchett-Morris.

"I work hard to ensure that everyone feels safe to say what they want, even if it's not the popular thing," Matchett-Morris said. "Both sides are valid, there is no right or wrong; it's all belief."

In the class, homosexual, bisexual and transgender issues will be discussed while reaching an understanding of human rights and moral beliefs.

"When they [students] leave this class, I hope they have a better understanding of who they are with their own values regarding homosexuality, whether they are gay or straight ... and I hope they

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Instructor, University Housing

express it in a respectful way," Matchett-Morris said.

Matchett-Morris said he hopes the class will be a diverse group.

"They don't have to agree with homosexuality to be in the class," he said.

Fictional entrepreneurs will be compared with real life entrepreneurs in "Entrepreneurs: For Real?" Along with studying Shakespeare's Henry V and Ted Turner, the class will study family-owned businesses, said Paul Frishkoff, accounting professor.

"Over half of the [Gross National Product] is generated by family-owned businesses," he said.

Frishkoff said because most business majors don't want to work for someone else, the class will look at the process of starting one's own business.

"It's a risk," he said. "But there's reward for the risk; you have to be human and deal with all the crises that will happen."

Many families turning to ready-made Thanksgiving

■ **TRADITIONS:** Too busy to prepare a massive meal, some families are turning to meals prepared by others

By Tom Potter
Student Activities Reporter

The house is warm. The rich aroma of the food cooking in the kitchen wafts into the family room. The sound of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV mixes with the loud voices of grandparents, aunts and uncles. It could only be Thanksgiving.

But for some families the traditional Thanksgiving meal and family togetherness isn't as easy to attain as it used to be.

Some families no longer have the time to spend putting together that perfect Thanksgiving meal but still want the tradition that other families enjoy.

Families now have to deal with constraints on their time because they are two-income families. This makes people more willing to buy a ready-made meal, said Marian Friestad, associate professor of marketing.

She said some families are more spread out and don't have the extended family around where they can have a big get-together at Thanksgiving.

Because of this it no longer makes sense to make a huge holiday meal for a couple of people.

There are now companies who are providing ready-made holiday meals to families that don't have time or who don't have the need to make a big holiday feast.

Fast food chains like Kentucky Fried Chicken or Kenny Rogers restaurants and local supermarkets are now providing all or parts of holiday meals.

Items offered by these companies include hors d'oeuvres, turkey and ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberries and others.

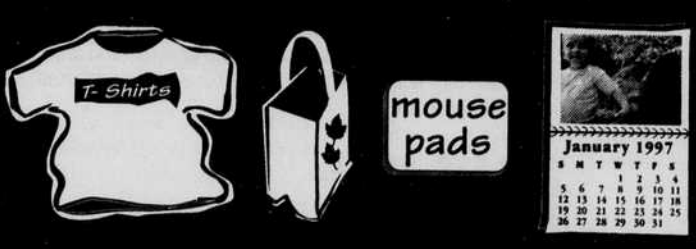
The prices for these meals can range from cheap supermarket meals to more expensive catered meals, with a variety of quality, Friestad said.

"It may not be the quality that's important," she said. "That's not what people are buying. They're buying the tradition or ritual."

The trend of families using ready-made meals has actually been growing, starting when families were buying products like ready-made stuffing or ready-made pumpkin pie crust. This has now developed into the entire meals of today, Friestad said.

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8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

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