More ‘Elasticity’ In Humanities Promised By Four New Courses

By Bill Lieblach

“Rice’s new humanities courses have been designed to put more elasticity in liberal arts studies and to provide new material for Rice students, especially freshmen,” Dr. William H. Masterson, Dean of Humanities, commented in a recent interview.

Dr. Masterson explained that the value of these courses lies largely in their interdisciplinary nature, each combining knowledge gained from various fields, such as philosophy, history, classical languages and fine arts.

Humanities 100, taught by Dr. Radoslav Tsanoff, Trustee Professor of Humanities, is a study of the development of Western thought, using the biographical approach. It includes the period from the Middle Ages to the present.

Dr. James Chillman, Professor of Fine Arts, Dr. Floyd Lear, Professor of History, and Dr. Donald MacKenzie, Professor of Classics, are teaching Humanities 101, which includes some of the history, philosophy, language and fine arts of the Greek and Roman periods.

Humanities 102 includes the same material as Humanities 101 during the first semester; during the second semester, however, it will branch off and, under Dr. Lear, will study the history of political theory. Five professors from other universities will give guest lectures in related fields during the second semester.

Dr. Tsanoff is guiding Humanities 300 in its first semester study of the development of Western thought, with emphasis on the modern period. The second semester will combine concepts of philosophy and history, with special attention given to the idea of progress in history.

Humanities 100 is open to Freshmen and a few upperclassmen. Humanities 101 and 102 are offered to Freshmen who may, by electing either course, also defer for a year their math and laboratory science requirements.