Humanities Program To Expand; Rich Variety of Courses Planned

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Significant changes in the humanities curriculum for 1960-61, including a rich variety in new courses, were revealed in an interview this week with Dr. William Masterson, Dean of Humanities.

The change of the greatest scope is the anticipated innovation of programs of “independent work” in nearly all humanities departments.

Undergrad “Theses”
The programs will involve extensive student research and writing on broad selected topics; the “independent work” will be substituted for one or two semester courses in the junior year, and will replace a fifth course in the senior year.

The research program will be mandatory for all history majors, and in other humanities departments a more or less limited number of students will be invited to join it.

The independent effort requirements and opportunities will (Continued from Page 3)
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be offered to 1960's incoming juniors.

Semester Courses

The second major change will be the inauguration of single semester options on selected courses, whereby the student may elect two half-year courses in place of a single full-year course.

Though few of next year's new courses had been officially formulated as of the Thresher interview, Dr. Masterson delineated several areas in which intensive efforts are being made to provide programs for the fall.

Classics, Anthropology

An introductory course in beginning Greek and a course in advanced Latin are two of the steps in the anticipated formulation of a Classics department at Rice; final decisions as to their availability for 1960-61 will be made later this semester.

It is also hoped that next year Rice will have an anthropologist who will offer two courses in social or cultural anthropology.

History 200

A definite addition for 1960-61 will be History 200, a sophomore course in the history of modern Europe. This course may be offered in place of one of the present freshman courses to satisfy the basic requirements for a major in history.

Math 101, a mathematics course which deals with notations of logic, the bases of the numbers systems, and the fundamental theoretical concepts of algebra, will be expanded and made available to freshmen as a substitute for Math 100, in hopes that it will be of interest and value to the academic student.

Other Proposed Courses

New courses in the fields of eighteenth-century English literature, in the History of Economics and in the Economics of History, in the intellectual history of Europe, in the history of science, in twentieth century American history, as well as fresh offerings in philosophy and English, are being formulated now and will be taught by present Rice instructors and an influx of new professors.

As final decisions are made, The Thresher will relay them to the student body. Biographies on new instructors are being prepared and will appear in March and April editions of The Thresher.