

CASUALITY, FREEDOM & CHANCE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Evergreen State College
September 13, 1971

Dear Friend,

The announcement that Evergreen's building program will not be fully completed by September 27 is naturally disappointing to all of us. But buildings are not as important as people. And Evergreen's basic concern and real assets are people.

One of the things Evergreen people have done over the last year is to plan for all kinds of contingencies and possibilities. Now we'll have the chance to give some of these plans a try. In a few days you'll get detailed information on the planned activities of the Causality, Freedom and Chance group for the period from September 27 to October 22. For now, let me just tell you of a few things that may help to suggest what will be going on.

For the period from October 4 to October 9, Monday through Friday, we have leased Camp Tahadowa, off Fox Island 14 miles from Tacoma, for an orientation and working session. The camp has good eating, sleeping, recreational, and group meeting facilities and we should accomplish a lot there. People with part-time jobs in Olympia or Tacoma will be able to commute. You won't have to bring much except yourself and a sleeping bag or blankets, but we'll fill you in on that in a later note. We will be asking everyone to contribute \$7.50 for the cost of food for the week. Camp rental and other expenses will be paid from the program budget. Please remember that your registration by mail must be completed before coming to the camp.

Books for the program will be sold at the Camp. Enclosed is a list of the books--all paperbacks--we'll be using for the first 10 weeks.

For students from Eastern Washington and out of state we will provide temporary room and board arrangements in homes in the Olympia area from October 10 to 23. We are also going to try to do the same for people in Western Washington who would have extreme difficulty commuting to Olympia. If you expect to have this kind of problem please tell me about it as soon as possible. You can use the enclosed return card. Early indications are that a car pool from the Seattle area can be set up. Please let us know too if you have a car and are willing to help with the car pool. Out-of-staters and Eastern Washingtonians will receive work individually in the near future about accommodations we can offer in Olympia.

We'll be carrying on a full program of seminars and meetings from October 10 to 22. If necessary, some of these will be held in Seattle. Locations and times will be announced within a few days. As far as possible, we'll

Page 2

work to fit them into times when you can come, for attendance and contact during these first few weeks will be very important to all of us.

Buildings or no buildings, Evergreen lives.

WILL HUMPHREYS
Coordinator,
Causality, Freedom and Chance
Phone 753-3957

P.S. Please fill in the enclosed return card and send it back immediately.
No stamp needed. We need a response from everyone in order to work out arrangements. Thanks.

CAUSALITY, FREEDOM AND CHANCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program starts with the fundamental question: To what extent are we as individuals free to do as we choose, and to what extent is our behavior predetermined by factors outside our control?

This central question immediately raises others: Is free choice really possible at all? Can the methods of science actually be used to predict and control human behavior? If so, how? How do the brain and the nervous system operate in behavior? Do they have the potential for spontaneity and creation? Can animals be "conditioned" to do just anything? Can people? How much of human behavior is the result of our genetic and biological background? Is chance a factor in the makeup of the universe, or is everything that occurs an inevitable result of what came before? Was the evolution of man a matter of chance? What is "chance" anyway? Can chance happenings be predicted? Is there such a thing as fate or destiny? If so, what is its religious and personal significance? Is history (as the Marxists and others claim) nothing more than the working out of patterns which were inevitable from the start? For example, are present conflicts in America between the black and white, young and old, the inevitable result of economic forces at work in the first half of the 20th Century? How do the ideas of chance, fate, destiny, cause-and-effect, and inevitability figure in literature and the arts? In the thought of other cultures?

By the end of the year, everyone will have formulated a personal statement--an essay, a tape recording, a short film, a set of drawings or paintings, or even a musical composition--addressed to this general concern: Is the world, for me, primarily a world of free and open possibilities; a world predetermined by conditions I did not create; a world of chance and uncertainty; or a world of scientific orderliness and predictability?

Some form of public presentation of these "statements" will occur at the conclusion of the program. The program involves persons intending to go on to specialize in psychology, philosophy, literature, mathematics, history, biology, or other science-related fields. It leads, indirectly, to such career interests as teaching and counseling, the ministry, writing, the performing arts, public service professions (law, government), statistical work, computer science, social-science related businesses (for example, advertising or opinion research), and biological-scientific businesses (for example, medical labs). The faculty members of the group bring special experience from philosophy, the history of science, mathematics, biology, computer science, psychology, and neuro-physiology.

The theme of the first quarter is "Determinism, Freedom, and Chance." In addition to readings and seminar discussions each week, the whole group participates periodically in lectures and witness a number of films. Philosophy, psychology(experimental and psychoanalytic), literature, and the mathematics of probability are studied. Students having special difficulties with mathematics receive individual help.

The second quarter is broadly titled: "Causality and Chance in Modern Science." The group learns about the scientist's (especially the biologist's) conception of man, nature, and the causal order. The subject matter is discussed in relation to philosophical ideas developed in the first quarter. Experiments deal with human and animal genetics, as well as with the conditioning of animals to behave in predictable ways. A week of field work is included.

The original plan for the third quarter of the program was radically altered by common consent of the faculty and students to deal with the theme of freedom and social constraint. As a group project, the outlines of a social structure were designed in such ways as to maximize individual freedom while preserving other important values such as stability and community. Eight seminar groups were organized around such themes as Education, Social and Family Structure, Natural Resources, Urban and Rural Design, Politics-Law-Government, etc. Each student attended two of these groups and maintained an individual project or internship(approximately one day a week) in such areas as government, literature, philosophy, photography, genetics, calculus, microbiology. The final form of the group efforts was a lengthy position paper combining long and short range schemes for the design of U.S. society. Some 15 prominent people from government, law, business, education, the arts, and medicine were brought in to discuss the students work with them and to provide comment on the final report. Because the reading lists were different for each seminar group no translation into course equivalencies is possible generally.

Writing and speaking effectively are concerns of this group throughout the year. Everyone is responsible for participating, seeing that everyone else participates, and keeping discussions on the track. For the central questions require all the concentration we can give.

Books

Recommended: George Lennard, Education and Ecstasy (Dell, \$2.25)

This book definitely will be discussed at the camp. Please try to get a copy and read it before then. We will have a limited number of copies to sell at the camp if you can't get it.

Required:

Aldous Huxley, Brave New World (Harper-Pow, 95c)
Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment (Modern Library, \$1.15)
B. Berofsky, ed., Free Will and Determinism (Harper-Pow, \$4.95)
W. F. Enteman, ed., The Problem of Free Will (Scribners, about \$4.00)
G. Denison, Lives of Children (Random House, \$1.95)
Warren Weaver, Lady Luck (Anchor-Doubleday, \$1.95)
B. Roueche, A Man Named Hoffman (Medallion, 75c)
B. F. Skinner, Walden II (Macmillan, \$2.25)
S. A. Mednick, Learning (Prentice-Hall, \$2.75)
J. and K. Capek, R.U.R. (Washington Square Press, 60c)
Clarence Darrow, The Story of My Life (Scribners, about \$4.00)
A. Conan Doyle, Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Medallion, 75c)

Books may be purchased at the Campus Book Store in Olympia if you are in the area. The Bookstore is housed temporarily on the campus in the garage area. You can also buy from the Bookstore by mail if you add 25c for postage and handling for each book. At present all books are in stock except Leonard, Enteman and Darrow. They are expected in the next few days.

TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE
C, F & C-- WINTER 1972

Lab will be held in Phipps House (end of Overhulse Rd, at the Beach)--We will try to arrange transportation from the library; parking is very limited, and the fewer cars we bring down, the better.
Lab will meet promptly at 1 and 3 PM on Wednesdays.

WEEK II (Wednesday, Jan 12) 1PM Kahan, Portnoff A
3PM Young A and B, Portnoff B

WEEK 3 (Wednesday, Jan 19) 1PM Parsons A and B
3PM Humphreys A and B

In weeks 2 and 3, there will be no flies to count, so these sessions will be short sessions to familiarize everyone with the lab and the techniques we will use. We will mate flies which will produce the hybrid generations we will be counting in later weeks, and you will have a chance to examine the animals under the dissecting microscope, and to learn to distinguish males from females (flies will be counted by sex in all experiments for reasons we will discuss later).

WEEK 4 (Wednesday, Jan 26) 1PM Young A

WEEK 5 (Wednesday, Feb 2) 1PM Young B

WEEK 6 (Wednesday, Feb 9) 1PM Humphries A
3PM Humphries B

WEEK 7 (Wednesday, Feb 16) 1PM Parsons A
3PM Parsons B

WEEK 8 (Wednesday, Feb 23) 1PM Portnoff A
3PM Portnoff B

WEEK 9 (Wednesday, Mar 1) 1PM Kahan

WEEK 10 (Wednesday, Mar 8) 1PM Make-up

PLEASE NOTE: We will be working with ether in the lab every week. Ether is ~~extremely~~ extremely flammable and therefore very dangerous. For this reason, there will be NO SMOKING ever in the lab. Forgetting is not merely a minor matter, it could result in a serious explosion--for everyone's sake, smoker's, please remind ~~yourselves~~ yourselves to obey the rule.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE
C, F & C-- WINTER QUARTER, 1972

WEEK 2 (Jan 12)	Mate parental (P) generation of Hardy-Weinberg I and II (HW I, HW II)
WEEK 3 (Jan 19)	Remove P's of HW I and II Mate P's of Monohybrid Cross Mate P's of Dihybrid Cross
WEEK 4 (Jan 26)	COUNT F_1 of HW I and II Remove P's of Monohybrid Cross and Dihybrid Cross (MC, DC) Mate F_1 of HW I and II Mate P's of Sex-linked Reciprocal Cross (SL I and II)
WEEK 5 (Feb 2)	COUNT F_1 of MC and DC Remove F_1 's of HW I and II Remove P's of SL I and II Mate F_1 's of MC and DC Mate P's of Mystery Unknowns I, II and III (UK I, II, III)
WEEK 6 (Feb 9)	COUNT F_2 of HW I and II COUNT F_1 of SL I and II Remove F_1 's of MC and DC Remove P's of UK I, II and III Mate F_2 's of HW I and II Mate F_1 's of SL I and II
WEEK 7 (Feb 16)	COUNT F_2 of MC and DC. TERMINATE EXPERIMENT. COUNT F_2 of UK I, II, and III. Remove F_2 of HW I and II Remove F_1 of SL I and II Mate F_1 of UK I, II, and III.
WEEK 8 (Feb 23)	WHOLE PROGRAM MEETS FOR POPULATION GENETICS EXPERIMENTS (Taste tests, tongue curling, and blood typing) COUNT F_3 of HW I and II COUNT F_2 of SL I and II. TERMINATE EXPERIMENT. Remove F_1 of UK I, II, and III. Mate F_3 of HW I and II.
WEEK 9 (Mar 1)	COUNT F_2 of UK I, II and III. TERMINATE EXPERIMENTS. Remove F_3 of HW I and II.
WEEK 10 (Mar. 8)	COUNT F_4 of HW I and II. TERMINATE EXPERIMENT.
WEEK 11 (Mar 13)	LAB WRITE-UP'S DUE.

By Monday of the second week, a schedule will be posted showing times for each section to report to the lab. You will only have to come to lab once, or at most twice during the quarter, and this is a required, non-optional activity (the whole program will be ~~depending~~ relying on you to gather data for everyone to use). Please try to come on your scheduled date; the lab space will be barely adequate to accomodate one section at a time, and we will not be able to handle a crowd of make-up's in the last weeks of the quarter. If you do miss your scheduled section, however, see Linda Kahan to arrange for a ~~am~~ make up time.