HSSP stresses humanities

By Lee Gigaare

A "group of friends learning together in a Political Science Studies Program (HSSP) offers college students the opportunity to examine a "value-free" environment, and teenage students a chance to take courses normally offered only at universities. "Because this is HSSP, it is free," Dr. George Hegedus, director of the program.

Just about any college student can register to teach a course, and, while most of them are college seniors, not necessarily from MIT, others are freshman, graduate students, MIT staff members, secretaries and faculty wives.

Shift to humanities

HSSP began 14 years ago with a group of interested students and the sciences, which were taught in the summer. This year, 35 courses are being given, with 700 students taking them. Of the 700 students, 250 of whom will be studying in the humanities rather than in the sciences. Hegedus said that the program, which he claims that the most popular courses are in the area of political science, is open to any psychology course offered recently has been over-enrolled.

For the spring and fall terms, classes meet on Saturday, when there are two sessions, or one per afternoon sessions. While the classes are held for an hour and a half, they can be engaged in as long as the teacher and his students desire. Room topics are provided by MIT.

The Department of Political Science has announced the first of a series of workshops in political science to be presented during the fall term. On Thursday, October 12, the members of one of the primary elections will be analyzed by a panel of political scientists, led by the editor of Newsweek Magazine, Robert Kilgore. Among the panelists are Edward Diamond, a professor in the philosophy of social science.

This year's fall term will begin Saturday, October third, and registration at 10. All classes will have their first meeting two weeks later. Due largely to the success of the program by the new calendar, the term will provide for only eight class meetings instead of the usual nine or ten. The first meeting for all courses will be Saturday, October 14, at 7:30 pm in Room 491 of the Student Center.

Each teacher decides what his program will do. Many courses are redesigned during the term to better meet student needs. For example, the absence of out-of-town preparations for each teacher depends largely on the subject and how it is developed in the classroom. And, according to Hegedus, the average is probably two or three hours per week.

Teachers are recruited largely by word of mouth, Hegedus pointed out, as are most of the new teachers. The HSSP also sends mailings out to most of the high schools within the area. The program is very effective. In schools simply make the information available to their students, that a few students may be interested, and he said, encourage students to attend.

Last year, some high schools apparently didn't tell students about the program because of the small number of people interested in the political science. The high school students are probably the most interested, and Hegedus hopes they will be some class which will discuss political facts. The program, however, does not supply the groups with the materials. Teachers, especially those teaching humanities and social studies classes, are not expected to take a "value-free" approach, but they are "encouraged to make their assumptions clear and to allow and encourage differences of opinion among the students."

"In order to attract new students, the HSSP is developing a preprogram in addition to MIT's Public Relations Office. Autumn will be sent out for the social sciences of urban social workers, and press releases will be sent to local newspapers and TV and radio stations. HSSP is hoping to get more students, trying then, rather than by relying mainly on high school guidance counselors.

School representatives

A new effort this year will focus on determining which different high schools as HSSP representatives. The representatives will be asking parents, students and teachers, since some have already left voluntarily. In fact, Hegedus said that he would like to see ESP made the head of the program, that the experiment in the area. Some of the areas he is moving into were: supporting a certification program for teachers, and setting up seminars in education and drugs. The drug seminar which he hoped would give students at a chance to speak from his point of view.

Burton exiles suffer in poor Medford dorm

By Curtis Reeves

The Boston Globe, Newsweek Magazine, and the Marshall Scholarship, part of the Experimental Program in Social Studies (ESP) to be expanded in the fall, are expected to take a "value-free" approach, but they are "encouraged to make their assumptions clear and to allow and encourage differences of opinion among the students."

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Forum: weigh imperialism

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