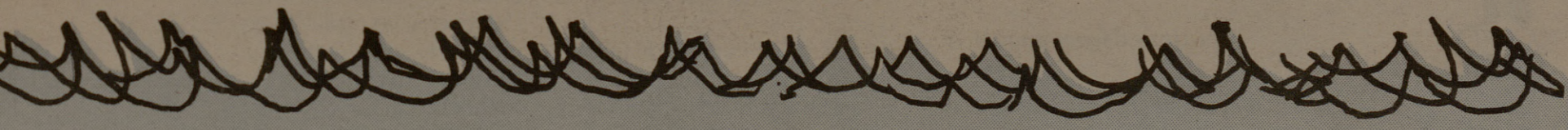
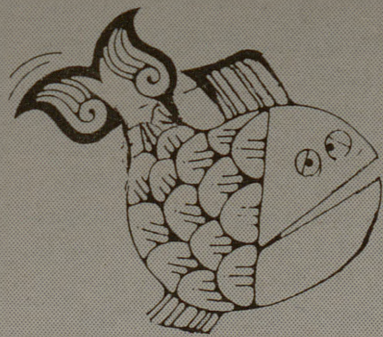


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In over your head academically?
Float through next semester in



Cool Courses

Compiled by Marybeth Rohsner

Okay, Ags, your advisers have been hounding you to take classes that "expand your horizons" and "provide a solid background to prepare you for the challenges of the working world."

Cutting through the adviserese, we all know that these key phrases translate into boring lectures, low grades, tedious homework and late nights at the typewriter for you, the poor, overworked, burnt-out student. Of course, the undergraduate catalog's beckonings can't be ignored, and everybody has to take their share of less-than-fun classes if they want to graduate before the turn of the century.

But we at At Ease know what you need. You need a break. You need to stay in bed until noon. You need a class without the strain of tests covered with mathematical hieroglyphics and 40-page term papers that count for 80 percent of your grade.

You need a blowoff class, a cush class, an easy A. Everyone has heard of them, and at some point, everyone has considered registering for one or two or five.

And no matter what you call them, they all amount to same

thing: courses where minimum efforts result in maximum grade points. Usually, "easy A" classes are considered to be uninteresting, unchallenging, and totally without any value in "the real world." On the other hand, they supposedly provide a time to take naps and provide a boost to the GPR of just about everyone, from study nuts trying to make it over the 3.5 hump to socialites trying to make it off the ScoPro list.

If these classes simply sound too good to be true, we've got good news and bad news. First, the bad news: they *are* too good to be true. There is no such thing as a 100 percent, verifiable easy A at A&M.

The good news is that there are some classes at A&M that even you 98 percenters should be able to pass if you attend class and put in a few hours every week. You even gain something useful from each one.

And the best news is that At Ease has compiled a no-nonsense list of these classes so you can read this issue, pick up your phone, and register.

Most people hear about these great classes through friends, roommates, older

brothers or sisters, other students in their major and even through profs. We used all of those word-of-mouth research methods, the 1986-'87 undergrad catalog, the spring 1987 schedule of classes, and one other source that only the seniors and the savvy have heard of: the grade distributions in the student counseling center in the YMCA building. The grade distribution listings show how many A's through F's each instructor gave (uh, we mean *assigned*) for the sections of each class in previous years.

Granted, it's far from being a foolproof method, since we randomly chose which year's statistics to base the list on. And we can't guarantee that these classes are a sure-fire answer to your academic woes. Some classes that you consider fun, interesting and easy might be pure torture to your roommate.

Besides, you never know if the statistics in the YMCA building are based on budding Einsteins or a bunch of Neanderthals.

Classes with lots of prerequisites were eliminated from the list, as were classes which, by the judgement of a wise council of upperclassmen,

have no redeeming value whatsoever (oh, come on, you need to learn *something* for your money).

So, if you've ever said, "Gee, I'd learn a lot more from this class if I wasn't under so much pressure," here's your chance.

Do something nice for your GPR and your sanity. Take our advice (but not too seriously) and take one of the "cool courses" recommended by At Ease:

Agriculture 101: Modern Agriculture Systems and Renewable Natural Resources, one credit.

This class meets only once a week. Different profs from the College of Agriculture give a brief description of the types of classes the department offers and the career opportunities for ag majors. Okay, it may not *sound* that interesting, but you can't judge a class by its title. At any rate, this class promises to make you more aware of what goes into what you eat.

Attendance is important, but according to the grade distributions, this class may be one of the very best bets for an A. Too bad it's only a one-credit course.

Chemistry 106: Chemical Perspectives, three credits.

Commonly known as "Cowboy Chemistry," this class has long been a favorite of business majors in search of science electives. You'll still learn some of the basics of chemistry without the stress and strain experienced by the poor freshmen in Chem 101 and Chem 102.

Although students in this class don't pull too many F's, about 40 percent made a C or D.

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