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DÉVELOPMENT OF A CORE-COURSE FOR COLLEGE SCIENCE MAJORS COMBINING MATERIAL FROM

INTRODUCTORY COURSES IN BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS. FINAL REPORT.

Portland State Coll., Oreg.

Spons Agency-Office of Education (DHEW), Washington, D.C. Bureau of Research.

Pub Date Oct 67

Grant-OEG-4-7-068468-0060 BN-BR-6-8468

Note-51p.

EDRS Price MF-\$0.25 HC-\$2.12

Descriptors-BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, *COLLEGE SCIENCE, COURSE CONTENT, COURSE EVALUATION."

*CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, *INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH PHYSICS

Identifiers-Oregon, Portland, Portland State College

Described is the development of a course that combines subject matter from introductory courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. The syllabus was written by four college science teachers, three of whom taught the course at Portland State College to 32 freshmen and sophomores. To evaluate the course, achievement tests and attitude surveys were administered to the experimental group and a control group of students in regular chemistry, physics, and biology courses. Achievement test results revealed a significant difference favoring the control group in biology at the five per cent level of confidence. No significant difference was noted in physics or chemistry. Results from the attitude survey revealed (1) that students favored the experimental course as often as the conventional courses and (2) that students in the experimental course as often as the conventional courses, and (2) that students in the experimental group were more willing to alter schooling and career plans. Included in the report are the evaluation instruments and the statistical data employed (BC) FINAL REPORT

Project No. 6-8468

Grant No. OEG-4-7-068468-0060

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ED 021759

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October 1967

The research reported herein was performed pursuant to a grant with the Office of Education, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Contractors undertaking such projects under Government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their professional judgment in the conduct of the project. Points of view or opinions stated do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Office of Education position or policy.

Portland State College

Portland, Oregon



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INTRODUCTION

(a) Problem, background, and related research.

It has become increasingly important in recent years for college students of science to obtain a broad background in both the physical and life sciences. Not only are the interdisciplinary research fields such as biophysics and biochemistry of growing significance, but many largely non-research professions such as medicine, dentistry, and secondary school science teaching demand stronger preparation in all the major sciences. In addition, many students find it more expedient to choose their majors after sampling a wide spectrum of disciplines. A vital question, however, is how to achieve this broad training in science in a way which will make efficient use of the student's available time, background, and One answer which has received increasing attention is interests. the integrated course concept. There have been a number of attempts to teach combined physics-chemistry courses, both at the college and high school levels.(2-5, 10) Some studies have been initiated to investigate other interfaces (such as between biology and chemistry) as they relate to teaching (1), but this has apparently not yet led to new curricular developments. Attempts at three-way integration combining material from physics, chemistry, and biology have resulted in courses for non-science majors at the college level (8) and, more recently, for high school students (9), but until the advent of the program described in this report there has been no effort at developing such courses for college science majors.

(b) Purposes and objectives.

The object of the research described in this report has been to develop a course for college science majors which combines in an efficient and consistent way the material from introductory courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. The course is intended for those students who intend to major in any of these three fields, as well as for pre-medical and pre-dental students. A preliminary evaluatory study has been performed which surveys student performance in subject areas as well as student attitudes and reactions towards science learning.

METHOD

(a) Syllabus.

A writing committee of four teachers of college science (a biologist, a chemist, a physicist, and a biophysicist) met during the summer of 1966 to prepare a detailed syllabus for the first year of the two-year introductory course, and an outline syllabus for the second year. The first year of the course was taught during the academic year 1966-67 at Portland State College, during which time the writing committee (three of whom were the instructors in the course) attended all lectures and laboratories, and met regularly in conference for review and reconsideration of the syllabus.

Appendix A contains a general description of the Portland State College course.

(b) Evaluation.

A preliminary study was conducted which was based upon the results of subject matter questions and attitude surveys administered simultaneously to the students in the combined course (treatment group) and to matched students enrolled in the conventional courses in physics, chemistry, and biology (control groups). Students were matched on the basis of sex, year in school, major area of study, SAT verbal score, SAT math score, and high school grade point average. Exceptions with respect to the matching criteria of sex, year in school, and major area of study were caused by limited control populations.

Subject matter achievement was measured by having treatment and control groups complete common test items inserted in regular examinations in the several courses. The paired t-test was used to compare achievement data from the treatment and control groups in each of the three subject areas. Student attitudes towards their particular science course, future plans, and science in general were sampled with a 15 question survey instrument which was completed by treatment and control groups. Point values were assigned to the various answers and then compared using the paired t-test method.

Details of the evaluation study are compiled in Appendix B.

RESULTS

(a) Syllabus.

A day by day outline of lectures, laboratories, and recitations for the first year of the Portland State College two-year 6 credit-hour sequence Science 201-6 is given in Appendix C. Reading assignment refer to texts by the following authors: in biology, Weisz (11); in chemistry, Keenan and Wood (6); and in physics, Morgan (7). A term by term assignment of topics for the second year is also given in Appendix C.

The class-hour distribution is in approximately the same proportion as the three separate courses for which it can be substituted. Four lectures a week are scheduled, and two afternoons are set aside for either laboratory work or recitations, as appropriate. Physics is more heavily emphasized in the earlier stages of the course, whereas proportionately more time is devoted to biology later in the sequence. Although the object was not to develop an interdisciplinary course per se, some attempt was made whenever possible to provide coherence by using some unifying themes. One of these themes is physical, chemical, and biological evolution. Another is the physical and biological aspects of thermodynamics, solutions, and the nature of protoplasm.

(b) Evaluation.

With respect to subject matter achievement it appears that the control students performed somewhat better than the treatment students only in the area of biology. (Comparisons using the paired t-test were made at the 5% level of significance.) The difference in performance was not significant in physics and chemistry though in each case the treatment students recorded a slight advantage. (Refer to page 5 of Appendix B).

The results of the attitude survey (pp. 26,7 of Appendix B) fave the combined course approximately as often as the separate courses. (See especially the summary of the t values, page 37 of Appendix B, and the numerical tabulations on page 12.) However, the particular areas in which the different modes of instruction seemed most effective are of interest. In particular, the treatment students indicated a greater willingness to alter their future plans with respect to schooling and career. (See discussion of questions 2, 3, and 6 on pages 8 and 12 of Appendix B.)

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DISCUSSION

(a) Syllabus.

In the light of one year's experience in teaching the course, it has become clear that the original syllabus (Appendix C) requires a good deal of revision. The areas in which modern introductory courses overlap were not to be fully appreciated during the original writing sessions. The most satisfactory teaching experiences seemed to occur whenever it was possible to use material from one discipline to reinforce and reinterpret concepts in another. (An example: entropy, which was discussed originally in a physics context, was developed as a useful predictive quality in chemical calculations. Another example involves organic compounds of biological significance.) However, a number of opportunities for such integration were not exploited in the original version. (Examples occur in the discussion of atomic structure and nuclear properties.)

A major stumbling block which was encountered arose from the fact that the class necessarily consisted largely of freshmen. These students in the beginning are not only unaccustomed to the pace of college work, but are not practiced in the analytical and problem solving skills demanded by the rhysics material. This latter difficulty is compounded by the rather more rapid pace of the course (six credit-hours versus five credit-hours in the regular physics course).

Nonetheless, a number of advantages envisioned for the course arrangement have been born out. The present syllabus permits a student to complete his introductory science study with an expenditure of 17% fewer credit hours than would be required by the regular biology, chemistry, and physics courses. In addition he need not commit himself very early to a particular major as he is taking prerequisites for all of them. The laboratory-recitation arrangement permits a flexibility which is hard to manage in other courses: experiments have kept pace with the lecture material, some new experiments have been tried, afternoon hours are available for special activities such as films, student self-study groups or tutoring sessions, etc. (Having hours set aside for group activities is particularly significant in an urban institution where many students live at home.) The occasional change of subject emphasis and instructors does not appear to cause any difficulty. In fact, there is reason to suspect that some students who might otherwise be swamped by a long continued exposure to one subject, are "kept afloat" by being permitted to change emphasis from time to time. However, definitive study of this factor has not been done. Conversation with faculty has revealed that team teaching of the sort practiced in this course can be of particular interest to those doing a significant amount of research, by making it feasible to divide a faculty member's load into efficient blocks devoted principally to teaching or to research.



(b) Evaluation.

Although the evaluation study seems to indicate that the combined course is fulfilling its stated objectives, the evidence is not overwhelming. There are several reasons for this lack of conclusiveness:

- (1) Size of populations involved. Only a small number of students were involved initially (32), and this population was drastically reduced due to the large number of withdrawals of students from both treatment and control classes. (This is, of course, typical of introductory science courses.)
- (2) Subject matter testing. It proved difficult to devise suitable questions for comparison of subject matter acheivement. The control and treatment groups covered much of the material in different terms of the year, or at different times during the term. In any case it is unusual that any two instructors would give the same amount of emphasis to any given item.
- (3) Matching. The matching of control and treatment students was not perfect due to limited populations and some arbitrariness in selection of matching criteria. For instance, the comparative drop-out rates were probably influenced by the difference in the ratio of freshmen to sophomores in the two groups (see page 4 of Appendix B). Similarly, it is possible that the results obtained from the attitude questions 1 and 9 (see pages 7 and 8 of Appendix B), which shows a negative interest reaction to physics in the treatment group, simply reflects the greater biology orientation of these students compared with the physical-science and engineering orientation found in the traditional general physics courses.
- (4) Limited test objectives. Although improvements can undoubtedly be made in the testing procedures, it is not clear that the short-range view revealed in this study has much bearing on the overall objective of the course, which is to provide a more efficient and effective groundwork for the training of future scientists and science-oriented professionals. The results given here are certainly interesting and of help in developing the future of the course, but the long-range objective is not being tested.

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CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Syllabus.

The program as it has so far developed has been successful in terms of teaching the pertinent subject matter at least as well as is done in standard courses, yet with the advantages for the student of added flexibility in his future planning and in credithour savings. It has not taken full advantage of some of its inherent potential arising largely from the fact that it involves many students who are brought together for relatively long periods of time in several science learning situations. In future planning the following points should be given consideration:

- (1) The "cluster effect". More use should be made of the interpersonal relationships which develop among the students. Problem solving "labs" can be organized to help develop analytical skills earlier. Special math sections set aside for these students might improve the relatedness of this subject to the student's overall program.
- (2) The interdisciplinary approach. Several major subject areas offer excellent prostets for meaningful integration. These include atomic structure, which lies at the chemistry-physics interface and includes material in mechanics, waves, electricity, and energetics; organic chemistry and molecular biology, at the chemistry-biology interface; and thermodynamics which includes topics in physics and chemistry as well as cellular biology.
- (3) The "spiral" approach. Under the circumstances of this course, many topics in physics and chemistry cannot (indeed should not) be thoroughly treated at the first encounter. For instance, certain aspects of electricity and magnetism are required to understand atomic structure which in turn underlies organic chemistry and molecular biology. However, many other aspects of electricity and magnetism (such as currents, circuits, e-m induction, etc.) fit more naturally into the course at later stages, where they will also serve a secondary purpose of stimulating review and rethinking of earlier learned ideas.
- (4) Laboratories. The uniform background of the students in all the sciences will permit the use of meaningful interdisciplinary lab experiments. Some examples of experiments which utilize fairly standard equipment are: nuclear lifetime measurements (phys-chem), gaseous diffusion (phys-chem), paper chromatography (chem-bio), and osmosis/dialysis (bio-phys).

(b) Evaluation.

It seems worthwhile to continue in the future the "short-range" study begun in this project. Some improvement will undoubtedly arise from the larger population samples expected in the future. In addition, some changes in the matching criteria ought to be examined (such as high school science preparation). Engineering and applied-science students ought to be excluded from the control groups. However, especially in view of the fact that the syllabus used was only a preliminary attempt, the survey reported herein can be largely regarded as a "dry run", i.e., a first model for use in the future. Moreover, the data handling and computational procedures ought to be developed for automated operation.

By and large, the most important need is to set up a system for "long-range" evaluation of the course. The treatment and control students' performance should be followed during their upper-division work and beyond. Only in this way can we hope to get a valid measure of the efficiency of the combined mode of instruction in training men and women of science.

SUMMARY

In view of the increasing need for broad scientific training of research workers, medical practitioners, and teachers, a two-year college core-science course has been developed which combines the materials of introductory courses in physics, biology, and chemistry at the science major level. A preliminary version of a detailed syllabus has been written for the first year of the course, as well as an outline of the second year syllabus. An evaluation study has been begun, in which subject matter comprehension and student attitudes were surveyed in the experimental course and compared with results obtained from matched populations enrolled in conventional science courses.

As an alternative to the conventional courses the core-science program has proven to be a viable, interesting one in which the subject matter can be covered in less time. However, experience with the present syllabus has suggested several improvements. These include:

(1) additional emphasis upon interdisciplinary material such as atomic structure, biochemistry, and thermodynamics; (2) teaching of some subjects in accordance with the so-called "spiral approach" in which students return to topics several times with increasing depth of treatment; and (3) increased opportunities for students to work together in much of their science and mathematics studies.

The preliminary evaluation study has shown the core-science course is at least as successful as the equivalent conventional course in terms of both subject matter achievement and student attitudes with one significant exception, viz., the students in the combined course are more flexible with respect to their future plans.



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MEMORANDUM

March 13, 1967

TO: All student counselors, Portland area high schools.

FROM: Division of Science, Portland State College.

SUBJECT: Science 201,-2,-3,-4,-5,-6, a new integrated core-science course for freshmen and sophomores at Portland State College.

- 1. This is to bring to your attention a new program for science majors and science-oriented students which has been in operation at Portland State College since last September. Entitled "Basic Science for Science Majors" it strives to combine the material from conventional one-year introductory courses in biology, chemistry, and physics into a unified two-year sequence. Compretion of this course prepares the student to undertake upper division work in any of these three departments. This course is highly recommended for qualified students majoring in these areas or planning medical or dental careers. The program is being developed under a grant from the U.S. Office of Education in an attempt to respond to several challenges posed by the traditional college science curriculum, as outlined in paragraph (3) below.
- 2. In advising your senior students with respect to their college plans (in particular those who will be participating in our summer preregistration program), we urge you to keep this course in mind. In order to qualify, a student must have successfully completed high school courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. In addition, he must have a demonstrated competence in high school mathematics through plane trigonometry. This latter requirement can usually be interpreted as completion of trigonometry with a grade of B or above. We also urge you to alert your non-senior science-oriented students as to the availability of this course at Portland State College, so that they may take it into account when planning their high school programs.
- 3. Several of the aspects of modern science and science training which this course attempts to deal with are described below.
 - (a) Much modern work in the sciences is interdisciplinary in nature. For this reason, Portland State College has for some time required many of its science majors to take introductory courses in physics, chemistry, and biology. A purpose of the core-science course described above is to permit students to complete this introductory work in an efficient manner in their freshman and sophomore years, thus freeing them from a choice of a specific science major at the very beginning of their college careers.
 - (b) A broad program in introductory science consumes quite a large portion of a student's overall program. However, the core-course is rated at six hours per term, for a total of 36 hours, which is less than the number of hours required to complete the three traditional courses it is intended to replace.
 - (c) Under this program, the student is in an excellent position to undertake those upper division courses being offered at Portland State



College which are of an interdisciplinary nature, such as Biophysics, Electron Microscopy, Biochemistry, etc.

- (d) We have reason to believe that this program is inherently more interesting to many students than the traditional ones. A team teaching approach is used; lecture and laboratory sessions rotate among the several disciplines in blocks encompassing several weeks of work.
- 4. For reference the catalog description is given below:

Science 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206. Basic Science for Science Majors. 6 credits each term.

A two-year unified sequence incorporating the subject matter of General Physics, Chemistry, and Principles of Biology, intended primarily for science majors and others desiring an extensive background in physics, chemistry, and biology. This course satisfies the prerequisites for upper division work in these three departments. Prerequisites: High School work in each of these three areas and competence in trigonometry. Four lectures; two three-hour laboratories, or four lectures, one recitation, and one three-hour laboratory.

For additional information, telephone Dr. A.D. Pickar, Department of Physics, Portland State College, Extension 337 or 401.

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APPENDIX B

of Final Report for Grant OEG-4-7-068468-0060

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SCIENCE CORE COURSE

July 1967

Micheel Fiasca Robert Henselman



1. Introduction.

This report summarizes evaluation data obtained from students who were presented two modes of instruction in biology, chemistry and physics at Portland State College during the 1966-67 academic year.

ment and attitudes from students enrolled in the first year of a two year unified science course (ASC-Sci-201-202-203-204-205-206 Basic Science For Science Majors) combining the subject matter of general biology, chemistry and physics—with data from students enrolled in biology, chemistry and physics courses studying the separate disciplines. The separate courses considered in this report were: General Physics (PSC-Ph-201-202-203); General Chemistry (PSC-Ch-204-205-206)/
and Principles of Biology (PSC-Bi-251-252-253).

Meeting patterns for the courses are listed below:

Se1-201206	Four lectures and two three hour laboratories; or four lectures, one recitation, and one three hour laboratory.
Bi-251253	Three lectures and two two hour laboratories.
Ch-204206	Three lectures, one recitation, one three hour laboratory.
Ph-201203	Three lectures and one recitation. The laboratory is offered as a distinct course Ph-204-205-206.



2. Matched Groups

For the purpose of analysis and comparison of achievement and attitude data matched treatment and control groups were established. The 32 students enrolled in Basic Science were used as the treatment group and 52 students in each of the areas of biology, chemistry, and physics were selected as matched control group members. Treatment and control students were matched on the basis of sex, year in school, major area of study, SAT verbal score, SAT math score, and high school grade-point average. (Appendix A) Exceptions in the matched treatment and control students with respect to the matching criteria of sex, year in school, and major area of study were caused by limited control populations and are noted in Appendix A.

The paired t-test was used to compare treatment and control groups with respect to SAT verbal scores, SAT math scores, and high school GPA. Similarity of the groups was demonstrated at the 0.5% level

S. Envollment Patterns.

Table 1-A, below, illustrates the enrollment patterns for the sets of matched groups:

Matched Set	Treatment Group	Biology Group	Chemistry Group	Physics Group	-
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In Table 1-A above:



⁻ indicates individuals not enrolled spring term

[&]quot; indicates undividuals entabled apring term

X indicates that student is a sephomore

Table 1-B, below, summarizes the data on students enrolled at the end of spring term:

Treatment Biology Chemistry Physical Year Number-% Number-% Number-% Number-% Number N	***
Translation 15, 19, 69 12, 27, 29 15, 19, 69 15, 19, 16	-%
Sophomores 1-3.1% 3-9.3% 2-6.2% 5-15. Totals 17-52.7% 15-46.5% 78-55.8% 20-62.	

Formula used to calculate per-centages was number of individuals involved in each instance divided by total number of students in the group; i. e. n/32.

Table 1-C, below, summarizes the data on students not enrolled at the end of spring term:

Table 1-	INDIVIDUALS	DROPPED	BY THE	END	TTO	SPRING	TERM
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A THE STATE OF THE	Treatment -	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	
Year	Number-%	Number-%	Number-%	Number-%	
Freshmen	15-46.5%	16-49.6%	12-37.2%	11-34.1%	
Sophomores	0-0.0%	1- 3.1%	2- 6.2%	1- 3.1%	
Totals	15-46.5%	17-52.7%	14-43-48	12-37,2%	

Formula used to calculate per-centages was number of individuals involved in each instance divided by total number of students in the group; i. e. n/32.

while the totals in the above table do not favor the treatment students it should be pointed out that the drop-out rate for all freshmen in all groups (113) was 47.7% (54/113) while all sophomores in all groups (15) had a drop-out rate of 26.6% (4/15). And since the of the 15 sophomores were members of the control groups the different rates of attrition for freshmen and sophomores tend to cause the control group students to have higher rates of enrollment at the end of spring term and lower rates of drop-outs. Further comment in this area will have to swalt next year's study.

4. Achievement.

Subject matter schievement was neasured by teacher made tests. The treatment and control groups completed common test items. The prized t-test already mentioned was used to analyze achievement data from the matched treatment and control groups. Results obtained are listed below:

- A. Treatment compared with Diology Controls: (Raw scores
 Appendix B) The calculated t value is 3.0217 (13 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is \$ 1.771.

 Therefore the t value is significant. The biology students achievement was significantly better than the treatment students in the area of blology.
- B. Treatment compared with Chomistry Controls: (Naw scores Appendix C) The calculated t value is -.9340 (16 cf) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is * 1.740. Therefore the t value is not significant. The chemistry and treatment students' performance is similar in the area of chemistry.
- C. Treatment compared with Physics Controls: (New scores / Appendix D) The calculated t value is -.4614 (11 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is * 1.796. Therefore the t value is not significant. The physics and treatment students' performance is similar in the area of physics.

Therefore in the area of subject netter achievement it appears that the control students performed significantly better than the treatment students in the subject matter area of biology. In the other

areas, chemistry and physics, the treatment and control groups recorded similar performances although in each case treatment students demonstrated a slight subject matter achievement advantage.



5. Attitudes.

Attitudes were sampled with a 15 question Reaction Inventory

(Appendix E) which was completed by treatment and control groups.

Point values were assigned to the various answers to inventory questions. Tables of raw scores of matched groups for each inventory question can be found in Appendix F.. These sets of raw scores were then analyzed with the paired t-test method and a table of calculated t values can be found at the end of Appendix F. It should be noted here that questions 2 and 6 are not treated in the above fashion and will be discussed later in this report.

Reactions to questions 4, 5, 7, 8, 14 and 15 demonstrated that there is no significant difference between treatment and control students on these items.

Inventory questions with significant differences between treatment and control groups are listed below:

- 1. My experiences in this course have
 - a. intensified my interest in science
 - b. had no impact on my interest in science
 - c. lessened my interest in science

A significant difference was noted for treatment students compared with physics students. The calculated t value is 2.345 (11 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 1.796 (Appendix F). Therefore the t value is significant. The physics control group indicated a more intensified interest in science. The t values for treatment students compared with biology students and treatment students compared with chemistry students were not significant. (Appendix F)



- 3. My experiences in this course have caused me to
 - a. elect different courses than I had originally intended for next year
 - b. make no changes in my course selection for next year

A significant difference was noted for treatment students compared with chemistry students. The calculated t value is -2.3905 (10 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is -1.812. (Appendix F) Therefore the t value is significant. The treatment students indicated that their experiences in basic science have caused them to elect courses different than originally intended for next year to a greater degree than their matched chemistry control counterparts. The t values for treatment students compared with biology students and treatment students compared with physics students were not significant. (Appendix F)

- 9. I would rate the instruction that I have received in this course as
 - a. quite stimulating
 - b. of average interest
 - c. quite dull

A significant difference was noted for trealment students compared with physics students. The calculated t value is 1.9367 (10 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is 1.812. (Appendix F) Therefore the t value is significant. The physics control students found the instruction quito stimulating. The t values for treatment students compared with biology students and treatment students compared with biology students and treatment students compared with chemistry students were not significant. (Appendix F)

- 10. I feel that the course has been
 - a. challenging to me
 - b., of average difficulty
 - u. rather easy

Significant differences were noted for treatment students com-



pared with biology students and treatment students compared with chemistry students. For treatment students compared with biology students the calculated t value is -2.2520 (12 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is \(\frac{1}{2} \) 1.782. Therefore the t value is significant. (Appendix F) And, for treatment students compared with chemistry students the calculated t value is -2.5693 (11 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is \(\frac{1}{2} \) 1.796. Therefore the t value is significant. (Appendix F) In both of the above cases the treatment students felt that the course was more challenging than the matched control students. The t value for treatment students compared with physics students was not significant. (Appendix F)

- 11. I consider the quality of the lecture given to be
 - a. of high caliber
 - b. average
 - c. poor in quality

Significant differences were noted for treatment students compared with biology students and treatment students compared with chemistry students. For treatment students compared with biology students the calculated t value is 3.3178 (11 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 1.796. Therefore the t value is significant. (Appendix F) The biology control students felt that the quality of the lecture given was of high caliber. And, for treatment students compared with chemistry students the calculated t value is \$-2.0244 (10 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5 % level of significance is \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 1.812. Therefore the t value is significant. (Appendix F) In this case the treatment students felt that the quality of the lecture given was of highest caliber. The t value for treatment students compared with physics students was not significant. (Appendix F)



- 12. I consider the assignments made were
 - a. reasonable
 - b. average
 - c. unreasonable

A significant difference was noted for treatment students compared with physics students. The calculated t value is 2.9994 (9 df) and the allowable range for the t value at the 5% level of significance is \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 1.833. Therefore the t value is significant. (Appendix F) The physics control students felt that the assignments made were more reasonable than did the matched treatment students. The t values for treatment students compared with biology students and treatment students compared with chemistry students were not significant. (Appendix F)

- 13. I consider the laboratory experiences
 - a. contributed significantly to my understanding
 - b. were average in their contribution to my understanding
 - c. contributed little to my understanding

Significant differences were noted for treatment students compared with biology students and treatment students compared with chemistry students. For treatment students compared with biology students the calculated t value is 2.6353 (12 df) and the allowable range for the t balue at the 5% level of significance is \pm 1.782. Therefore the t value is significant. (Appendix F) And, for treatment students compared with chemistry students the calculated t value is 3.3167 (10 df) and the allowable range for the t value is \pm 1.812. Therefore the t value is significant. (Appendix F) In both cases above the control students were more satisfied than their treatment counterparts that laboratory experiences contributed more to their understanding. The t value



for treatment students compared with physics students was not significant. (Appendix F)



6. Effects On Changes In Science Majors And Science Careers.

Questions 2 and 6 on the Reaction Inventory show rather interesting results. It is demonstrated that early experience with all sciences does cause students to change their minds about the choices of science majors and science career choices. This must be looked on as an advantage of the integrated mode of instruction.

The questions and numerical tabulations of the responses by group are listed below:

- 2. My experiences in this course have
 - a. caused me to consider changing my major from science to another field of study
 - b. caused me to consider changing my major from one science to another
 - c. bad no effect on my choice of majors
- 6. As a result of my experiences in this course
 - a. I am considering changing my career choice from one which is science oriented to some other vocation
 - b. I am considering changing my career choice from one science vocation to another science vocation
 - C. I have not considered making a change in my choice of careers

TABLE 2 NUMERICAL TABULATION OF RESPONSES TO QUESTION 2

Group	~ a 1977366A	Answer b.	Answer c.
Treatment	3	7	7
Biology	1	4	7
Chemistry	0	2	10
Physics	3	1	g
Totals	5	14	33

TABLE 3 NUMBERICAL TABULATION OF RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6

Group	Answer a.	Answer b.	Answer c.
Treetment	3	5	9
Biology	0	4	8
Chemistry	1	0	11
Physics	}	1	9
Totals	5	10	37



TREATMENT GROUP AND MATCHED CONTROL GROUPS

Group key:

- 1) TREATMENT GROUP
- 2) BIOLOGY GROUP
- 3) CHEMISTRY GROUP
- 4) PHYSICS GROUP

Matching item code:

SEX:

M-Male F-Female

YEAR:

F-Freshman S-Sophomore

MAJOR:

S-Science O-Other

VERBAL:

SAT Verbal Score

MATH:

SAT Math Score

HSGPA:

High School GPA

A * placed with the code letter in the items of sex, year and major indicates that the treatment and control are not matched in that item.

An x placed in the column under DNOP-OUT indicates that the student dropped out of the course.

The number in the SET column indicates particular sets of matched Treatment, Biology, Chemistry and Physics students. These SET numbers are used throughout this report in presenting data in the various tables.



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SET	GROUP	SEX	YEAR	MAJOR	VERBAL	HTAM	HSGPA	DROP-OUT
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	1 2 3	M	F	S	450	680	3.4	
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	2	M	L	0	570	640	2.1	x
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	4	M	F.	O	520	640	2.9	X
	1	F	F	S	610	580	3.0	770
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Paired	t-test	values for	treatment and	control matching items	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
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& Physics		2.402	0.903	1.401	

t ranges listed above at the .5% level; all t values listed are within their respective t range and therefore the groups are to be considered matched on these items.

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REACTION INVENTORY

This reaction inventory was prepared to assist the Science Faculty of Portland State College to improve its undergraduate instruction. The answers you provide will be held in strict confidence. No instructor of this course will see your response sheet. He will be provided a tally of the results, however.

Instructions: Please give your reactions to the following list of items regarding your experience in this course.

Draw a circle around the letter that corresponds to the statement that most nearly registers your true feelings.

- 1. My experiences in this course have
 - a. intensified my interest in science
 - b. had no impact on my laterest in science
 - c. lessened my interest in science
- 2. My experiences in this course have
 - a. caused me to consider changing my major from science to another field of study
 - b. caused me to consider changing my major from one science to another
 - c. had no effect on my choice of majors
- 3. My experiences in this course have caused me to
 - a, elect different courses than I had originally intended for next year
 - b. make no changes in my course selection for next year
- 4. To what extent has this course met your expectations with respect to improving your subject matter competence
 - e. very well satisfied
 - b. satisfied
 - c. disappointed
- 5. As a result of my experience in this course I am
 - a. considerably more aware of the impact of science on human affairs
 - b. somewhat more aware of the impact of science on human affairs
 - c. no more aware of the impact of science on human affairs
- 6. As a result of my experiences in this course
 - a. I am considering changing my career choice from one which is science oriented to some other vocation
 - b. I am considering changing my career choice from one science vocation to another science vocation
 - c. I have not considered making a change in my choice of careers



- 7. As a result of my experience in this course
 - a. I am more aware of the interdependence of all the sciences
 - b. I have not changed my views about the interdependence of the sciences
- 8. I would rate the overall instruction I have received in this course as
 - a. excellent
 - b. good
 - c. fair
 - d. poor
- 9. I would rate the instruction I have received in this course as
 - a. quite stimulating
 - b. of average interest
 - c. quite dull
- 10. I feel this course has been
 - a. challenging to me
 - b. of average difficulty
 - c. rather easy
- 11. I consider the quality of lecture given to be
 - a. of high caliber
 - b. average
 - co poor in quality
- 12. I consider the assignments made were
 - a. reasonable
 - b. average
 - c. unreasonable
- 13. I consider the laboratory experiences
 - a. contributed significantly to my understanding
 - b. were average in their contribution to my understanding
 - c. contributed little to my understanding
- 14. I consider that the recitation groups
 - a. contributed significantly to my understanding
 - b. were average in their contribution to my understanding
 - c. contributed little to my understanding
- 15. I consider that the exeminations were
 - a. appropriate
 - b. inappropriate

for the course



The following tables represent the raw scores obtained from responding matched treatment and control group students on the Reaction Inventory. Each table represents the individual matched treatment and control student responses for a particular question. Questions 2 and 6 are not included in this breakdown, but a summary of student responses on these items appears elsewhere in this report.



^{*} indicates no response

Question 1:

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Question 4:

Set	Treatment	Biology	Chemistry	Thysics
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Question 7:

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Question 9:

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Question 11:

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Question 13:

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Question 15:

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Calculated t Values For Reaction Inventory Questions

t values significant at 5% level are underlined

Reaction						
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		t value	·	u value	df	t value
1	12	0.2672	17	0.2472	1.7	E C. B.
3		0.4317	10	-2.3205	10	-0.4714
4	12	1.4771	Tank.	0.3402	11	1.1488
5	122	0.6924	13	0.6159	11	1,1480
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df is degrees of freedom; n-1 in this case

T B is treatment and biology

N C is treatment and chemistry

T P is trastment and physics

Number of df	Allowable a value	rapse " (page 520)
9 -	2.20	it value mango tritor inovat
LO	+ 3,312	Id, Jeromo G.E.: <u>Introduction</u> To Statistical Inference: dis-
111	<u>÷</u> 1.796	cributed by Edvards Svothers, Inc. Ann Arbor, Michigan; 1957.
12	± 1.782	



	M M	T T	W	APPEND Th	p
1	Sept. 26. Introduction to course.	PH.recitation: Slide rule, math.	PH:Introduction t Chapters 1, 2.	CH.lab: Check-in. Chem. balances. Ch.manual: p.2-6.	
2	Oct. 3. PH: Kinematics concluded.	PH.rec:kinematics and vector probs.	PH: Brief quiz (vectors, kinemat.) Particle dynamics	Newton's laws. C PH.lab:Measuremnt &errors.Intro&Ex 1	
3	Oct. 10. PH:Statics of rigid bodies. Chap.7.	PH.rec: Dynamics problems.	PH:Quiz(dynamics). Statics concluded	PH:Rotational motional body dynamics. Chip PH.lab:Gravitat. accel.(Ex.4);rotat. accel.(Exp.6).	, ,
4	Oct. 17. PH:Rotation con- cluded. Work and energy. Chap. 11,12	PH.rec: Statics, rotation probs.	PH:Quiz(rotation). Work and energy co		Fir Impulse and linear momentum. Chapter 13.
5	Oct. 24. PH: Nuclear scat- tering. Angular momentum. Chap. 13.	,	PH: Quiz(work and energy). Gyroscopic motion.	CH: Atomic structutable. Chapters 1 PH.lab:Cellisions and scattering.	are; periodic and 2.
6	chem Chapter 14.	CH.rec: Atomic str., atomic & molec.wt. Prob. book Chap.3.		CH.lab:Percomp.;relaatomic wt	7 TO 100 AND 100 M
7			CH: Electronic str atom concluded.		CH:Chem. changes and chem. bonds. Chapter 4.
8		CH.rec:Lab manual exerc.6 + review chapters 2,3,14.	2, 3, 14).	CH:Chem.changes & bonds concluded. CH.lah: Electro- lytes,acids,bases, salts (Exp. 7).	CH: Organic chem- istry. Chapter 25
9			CH: Organic chem. contd.Chapter 26.		
10		CH.rec: Organic chemistry.		try concluded. Cha CH.lab: Organic chemistry.	pters 27 and 28.
11			BI: Evolution of the elements.	BI: Formation of	BT: Early earth: chem. evolution.

Tence 203- Spring	, J	W .	Th	F
			simple harmonic mo PH.lab: Spring pendulum(Exp8);tor- sion pend.(Exp.11)	-
April 3. PH: Mechanical waves.Chapter 23.	PH.rec: Oscilla- tions problems.		and sound Chapter PH.lab: Resonance & waves (Exp.60,61)	
April 10. PH: Similarities in wave behavior.	PH.rec: Wawe prob- lema,	Electromagnetic waves Sect. 31-14.	PH: Geometrical op and refraction. Ch PH. lab: Resonance continued.	
April 17. PH: Relativity.	PH.ree: Optics problems.	_	PH: Geometrical opertical instrument PH. lab:Prism spectrometer(Exp. 74); compound microscp.	s. Chapter 33.
April 24. PH: Microscopes (guest lecture).	PH.rec: Optics problems.	Coupled oscillat-	BI: The taxonomic system.Pp.161-169. PH.lab:Spectrom- eter & microscope continued.	
May 1. BI: Protista- algae.Pp.178-192.	BI.lab: Diversity of life.	BI: Protista -prot Pp. 193-211.	BI. lab: Diversity of life continued.	BI: Plantae- bryophytes. Pp. 213-219.
May 8. BI:Plantae-trach- eophytes.Pp.219- 251.	BI.lab: Diversity of life continued.	eophytes concldd.	BI:Animalia-acoelomates & pseudo-coelomatesPp253-72BI.lab: Diversity of life continued.	schizocoelomates. Pp. 272-288.
May 15. BI: Animalia- schizocoelomates concldd.	BI.lab: Diversity of life continued.	•	BI: Exam. BI. lab: Diversity of life concluded.	CH: Oxidation and reduction. Chap. 18 (in part).
May 22. CH: Oxidation and reduction contd.	CH.rec:Oxidred. Prob.book chap.5.		ogy-ATP.Pp.395-98;	Pp. 329-345.
May 29. BI:Photosynthesis CO ₂ fixation.Pp. 345-352.		BI: Cellular re	BI.lab: Metabol-	9- 420.

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Term content (unrevised) - Core course second year.

	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	
		Equilibrium: Acids, bases, salts; solubil-ity products; hydrol-ysis.	Nutrition; Respiration; circulation; structure and movement; integration.	
Fall		(Weeks 1 thru 5.)	(Weeks 6 thru 10.)	
	Electricity and magnetism.		Reproduction; develop- ment; genetics; evol- ution.	
Winter	(Weeks 6 thru 10.)		(Weeks 1 thru 5.)	
5 3	Physical optics; Modern topics.	Electrochemistry; descriptive inorganic.	Ecology.	
Spring	(Weeks 6 thru 8.)	(Weeks 1 thru 5.)	(We sks 9 and 10.)	

