

*This course canceled  
for fall semester 1989-90  
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3-16-91*

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Saint Louis University

To: Professor William C. McAvoy  
Chair  
Department of English

5 April 1989

Subject: Course Description  
ENG-A607 Language as Hermeneutic  
Fall Semester 1989

From: Walter J. Ong, SJ

A crossdisciplinary introductory investigation of language and thought as basically hermeneutic or interpretive operations. The course will work largely with contrasts between language in its originally oral state and its later written and printed and computerized states and with thought forms related to these different states of language. It will treat also the permanent rooting of all linguistic expression in the nonlinguistic.

In addition to English and linguistics, the course will relate also to subjects such as cultural history, psychology, philosophy, theological studies, etc. Papers may be tailored to the individual interests of the student, treating, for example, subjects such as residual orality in familiar American authors (Melville, Hawthorne, James, Mark Twain, etc.), the influence of dictionaries on writing styles and on textual interpretation, differences between the "sense" of oral and written dialogue, comparative stylistics of various authors, interpretation as involved in the teaching of English, etc.