Award of Sc Credit for Coursework Outside of Yale

A course at an accredited outside college or university may be used in fulfillment of the Sc (science) requirement, subject to the following conditions:

1) The course must be taken for a grade.
2) The course must be taught at a level comparable to the level of Yale courses in the relevant discipline.
3) The course must meet the same criteria that are used by the Science Council for the review of courses in Yale College.

Courses may be used to satisfy the natural science requirement if they meet the following criteria:

i. The primary subject matter of the course is the systematic study of some manifestation of matter or life. Courses whose primary focus is on human behavior; mathematics, statistics or computation; design issues in engineering; or the societal context of the discipline (e.g. history, philosophy, ethics and the like) are not in general appropriate.

ii. The course should not emphasize rote learning of facts and procedures. Science courses should help students to understand, appreciate, and apply the methods of science through which these facts and procedures are developed.

iii. The exercises and grading procedures assigned in the course should reflect criteria i and ii, through problem sets, laboratory work, field work, or other exercises appropriate to the particular discipline, at a level comparable to that of introductory courses for science majors.

The Science Council will make its determination as to the suitability of an outside course for satisfaction of the Sc distribution requirement on the basis of a review of the course syllabus, prerequisites and course materials. In most cases, this will require submission of materials such as problem sets and exams for review by the council.

Most courses in the natural sciences (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics) at an appropriate level may be expected to fulfill the Sc requirement, but the suitability of courses will in most cases depend on a review of the specific course content and the course exercises. Students planning to apply to the Sc requirement courses designed for non-majors, courses exploring the interface between science and society, and courses in areas outside of the core natural sciences are urged to consult with the Science Council in advance of making summer plans: ScienceCouncil@yale.edu.

Updated WAS 1/14/11