To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to BA Sociology Law and Society Major

PRESENT:  PROPOSED:

Sociology/Law and Society Major  [No change]

The major requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degrees in Sociology/Law and Society are as follows:

For the Bachelor of Arts  [No change]

Sociology Department requirements (14 courses [at least 56 units])  [No change]

The Law and Society major is open to undergraduate students with junior standing who have completed LWSO 100 with a grade of “C” or higher. Students will not be admitted into the major until lower-division SOC requirements are satisfied. All courses in the major must be taken for a letter grade.

1. Lower-division requirements (5 courses [at least 20 units])

   a) SOC 001 or SOC 001H with a grade of “C” or better
   b) SOC 004, SOC 005 with a grade of “C” or better in each
   c) Two additional lower-division Sociology courses with a grade of “C” or better in each

2. Upper-division requirements (9 courses [at least 36 units])

   a) SOC 168 or SOC 169
   b) A minimum of one course each selected from four of the following seven areas of emphasis:

      (1) Social Organizations: SOC 150, SOC 151, SOC 171, SOC 176/BUS

   1. [No change]

   a) SOC 001 or SOC 001H with a grade of “C-” or better
   b) SOC 003, SOC 004, SOC 005 with a grade of “C-” or better in each
   c) One additional lower-division Sociology course with a grade of “C-” or better

   2. [No change]

   a) [No change]
   b) A minimum of one course each selected from four of the following five areas of emphasis:

      (1) Social Institutions, Organizations and Change: SOC 112, SOC
(2) Social Psychology: SOC 173, SOC 174, SOC 175, SOC 177G, SOC 178

(3) Social Inequality: SOC 129, SOC 130, SOC 133, SOC 135

(4) Urban Sociology: SOC 137, SOC 138, SOC 143/URST 143, SOC 182/URST 182, SOC 184

(5) Criminology and Deviance: SOC 134, SOC 135, SOC 136, SOC 137, SOC 138, SOC 139, SOC 140, SOC 141, SOC 142, SOC 143, SOC 144, SOC 145, SOC 146, SOC 147, SOC 148, SOC 149, SOC 150, SOC 151, SOC 152, SOC 153, SOC 154, SOC 155, SOC 156, SOC 157, SOC 158, SOC 159, SOC 160, SOC 161, SOC 162, SOC 163, SOC 164, SOC 165

(6) Social Institutions and Change: SOC 120, SOC 122, SOC 123, SOC 139/MCS 139, SOC 158, SOC 160, SOC 179, SOC 181

(7) Family and Gender: SOC 140, SOC 141, SOC 142, SOC 153

(2) [No change]

(3) [No change]

(4) [No change]

(5) [No change]

c) An additional four elective courses (at least 16 units) in Sociology (No more than 5 units from any combination of SOC 190, SOC 197, SOC 198-I.)

Law and Society requirements (36 units)

a) PHIL 007 or PHIL 007H

b) LWSO 100 (with a grade of “C” or better)

c) One course chosen from ECON 111, POSC 114, PSYC 012, SOC 004 (or equivalent course in research methods)

d) Three courses chosen from ANTH 127, ECON 119, HISE 153, PHIL 165, POSC 167, PSYC 175, SOC 159.

[No change]
JUSTIFICATION:

1. We seek to reduce the number of our undergraduate specializations from 7 to 5 in light of actual and impending losses in our ladder-ranked faculty which constrain our ability to offer and develop new courses within the urban and the organizations specializations. The proposed specializations better reflect the expertise and current teaching interests of our current faculty given recent and impending faculty turnover.

2. We seek to expand the course options for students to fulfill their specialization requirements in order to facilitate students' timely completion of their degree requirements. These changes are also intended to update the specialization requirements so that they better reflect changes within the broader discipline of sociology as well as current course offerings in each of these subfields. The proposed changes also better reflect the expertise and teaching interests of current faculty (particularly faculty hired in the past 15 years), which should facilitate course scheduling. The current specialization requirements are outdated, hindering faculty’s ability to teach courses that reflect changes in the discipline and the current faculty’s teach interests and expertise.

3. We are proposing to change the grade requirements for our lower-division courses (Soc 1, Soc 4, Soc 5, and two additional lower-division courses) from a C to a C- in order to be consistent with systemwide regulations regarding grade requirements for courses which are currently being enforced by the Committee on Courses at UC-Riverside. As a result of this requirement, Sociology students are able to enroll in Soc 3 if they have taken Soc 1 with a C- or better, they can enroll in Soc 4 if they have taken Soc 1 with a C- or better, and they can enroll in Soc 5 if they have taken Soc 4 with a C- or better. Students are also able to enroll in various upper-division Sociology courses if they received a C- or better in Soc 1, 3, 4, and/or 5. In light of this, we want the grade requirements for the lower-division courses to be consistent with the C- and above standard so that students who do receive a C- in their lower division courses are not excluded from the major (or have to repeat these lower-division courses). Per email conversations between past CEP Chair Ward Beyermann and the Sociology department, lowering the C requirement to a C- would solve the curriculum problem which could exclude students who pass lower division courses by receiving a C- but do not qualify for the major with the existing C grade requirements. Moreover, following CEP Ward Beyerman's advice given to the Department in 2013, we plan to encourage Sociology instructors who teach Sociology to raise the academic standards so that C- are comparable to what we used to consider C grades.

APPROVALS:
Effective Date: 2015-16
Approved by the faculty committee of the Sociology Major: November 19, 2013
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences: January 7, 2015
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: April 3, 2015