EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, & SOCIAL SCIENCES

REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
MAY 19, 2015

To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to BS Sociology Law and Society Major

PRESENT:
For the Bachelor of Science Sociology Department requirements (16 courses [at least 64 units])

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 (11 courses [at least 44 units])
   a) SOC 110, SOC 168, 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 176

PROPOSED:
[No change]

[No change]

1. [No change]

2. [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

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 120, SOC 121, SOC 122, SOC 123, SOC 125, SOC 126, SOC 137, SOC 138, SOC 139/MCS 139, SOC 143/URST 143, SOC 150, SOC 151, SOC 156, SOC 157, SOC 158, SOC 160, SOC 171, SOC 176/BUS 176, SOC
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.
e) Two courses chosen from ENSC 174, HISA 120A, HISA 120B, HISE 123, LWSO 175 (E-Z), PHIL 164, POSC 111, POSC 166, POSC 168, POSC 186, SOC 147, SOC 149, SOC 180.
f) LWSO 193, Senior Seminar

[No change]
requirements (Sociology requirements and Law and Society requirements).

**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: 2015-2016

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