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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee
January 27, 2015

Attending: Karla Knight, Cindy Pokrywa, Jonathan Walz, Kasandra Riley, Jill Jones, Vidhu Aggarwal, Chris McManus, Emmanuel Kodzi, Emily Russell, Amy Armenia, Anca Voicu

I Approve the Minutes from Dec 2, 2014 Move to approve (Gloria Cook), 2nd (Chris McManus). Unanimous approval

II Sub-Committee Announcements or reports

1. J. Walz: New Course subcommittee met on Friday and approved about 18-20 courses with minimal recommended changes/concerns.

III Old Business:
(none)

IV. New Business:

1. Issues of what to do with new courses submitted by INB
Jill led discussion with members of the new course subcommittee and other AAC members regarding currently submitted new course proposals. Specifically, the subcommittee inquired as to whether or not the INB proposals should be reviewed/approved by A&S or CPS in light of recent administrative changes in that department. At the request of Emmanuel Kodzi, and with the general assent of the group, the subcommittee will review submitted course proposals until further notice.
2. Proposed changes to the Sociology major/minor (Amy Armenia)
Amy presented an overview of the needs of the major and changes, highlighting the reduction in size of the major/minor, renumbering, and new requirement of prerequisites. All details are included in an attachment.

Jill: some concern about changing 101 to 201, given that freshmen are assigned to that course if they are interested in the field. Amy said that it is still an appropriate place to assign first-year students.

Move to pass changes as proposed: Kasandra, 2nd: Jonathan; unanimous approval

3. Change to the newly approved Honors curriculum (Emily Russell)
Emily presented an “accidental change” to the Honors program that was approved by the faculty. Briefly, “Writing” has been added as a competency to the proposed honors curriculum when it wasn’t previously there. Historically, the “W” requirement has been excluded because Honors students are often entering the program exempted AND are writing theses/have many writing-intensive courses.

Jill: Liked the change of including the “W” to help improve these students’ writing skills.

Gloria: what is the rationale for taking the “W” back out? Emily: because the courses are already writing intensive throughout the curriculum, so it is not as much of a removal of a competency as it is a way to preserve the way the program was (with inherently writing intensive courses throughout).

Gloria: Either the Honors program needs to be effectively considered a “Neighborhood” OR have it exempt from the assessments that the rest of our general educational curricula are subject to.

Emily: Honors is separate and not really recognized as a Neighborhood.

Jill: what is the downside of the writing competency, especially for students who are potentially not good writers?

Jonathan: There is a big difference in the number of total course hours from the old to new curriculum; eliminating the “Writing” competency will further reduce the rigor of the program as proposed.

Emily: these changes are consistent with the requirement reductions in rFLA.

Jill: it appears that this will still have to go before entire faculty to formally approve this change.

Kasandra: would it be difficult to attach a “W” designation to one or more Honors courses? Emily: given staffing challenges, they would be hesitant to add another requirement that may deter potential instructors

Gloria: how are the Honors courses assessed without the LEAP learning outcomes to satisfy SACS? The original discussions of rFLA curriculum addressed eventual intentions to roll Honors into the Neighborhood program at some point down the line, but it is not clear where the situation is going or if this issues has fallen through the cracks. Is there at least a way to formally assess the writing of the Honors students as a built-in component of the Honors classes?

Jonathan: why not take writing samples from two different times to assess writing within the Honors program?

Emmanuel: integration of the Honors students into the whole campus is beneficial for both Honors students and the rest of the population.

Handout from Emily: summary of changes to the Honors degree program presented at all-faculty meeting in December.

Jill: there is urgency to this situation, given the students’ need for registration.

Jonathan: can we clear this for the immediate future with the understanding that it will be revisited within about a year?

Move to endorse the striking of the Writing requirement: Emmanuel (Vidhu 2nd) 3 pro/3 con (did not pass); recommendation is that Honors program reconsider request in light of statistics of students affected AND a more comprehensive discussion of how the Honors general education curriculum is assessed/whether this program is part of rFLA must be addressed by the faculty as soon as possible.

V. Announcements

VI. Adjourn

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Curriculum Revision Proposal – to be effective Fall 2015

Faculty

Amy Armenia (Associate and Chair), Amy McClure (Assistant), and Matt Nichter (Assistant)

Rationale

In the past few years, the Sociology department has experienced 100% turnover and a reduction in full-time faculty to three lines. Given the changes in staffing, the specialties of those faculty, and other changes in the College and its curriculum, we have necessarily revisited our program and the major/minor requirements. In this revision process, we have drawn on input from a number of sources including program recommendations from the American Sociological Association and feedback from student and faculty. The key changes we have incorporated include:

- Major/minor requirements: A reduction in required Sociology courses to ten for the major (from twelve), and for six (instead of eight) for the minor. The reduction in courses is in part to remove some redundancies in our previous curriculum, to address shortages in staffing, and (in the case of the minor) to make our program more consistent with other departments. The reduction in courses for the major is in reality only one Sociology course, since we have removed the requirement for one other Social Science course.
- Course levels: We have standardized and simplified our course levels to include a lower-level (which includes any RCC and rFLA offerings) and an upper-level of courses primarily (but not exclusively) for majors, and have instituted prerequisites to allow for vertical integration of the major.
- Course numbering: We have changed our SOC 101 (The Sociological Perspective) to SOC 201 and made it a required course for the major, ideally taken before one's junior year and before other core courses. We have also changed other course numbers to more accurately reflect the level of content.

- We have removed courses and requirements that were mainstays of faculty who have since retired.

The Sociology Major

The Sociology Major at Rollins College consists of ten (10) courses, six of which must be taken at Rollins College. Students interested in the major/minor should consider beginning with SOC 201 or any 100-level course.

Core Courses

SOC 201: The Sociological Perspective (recommended prior to junior year)

SOC 301: Methodology (fall of junior year, SOC 101 as prerequisite)

SOC 302: Sociological Theory (spring of junior year, SOC 101 as prerequisite)

SOC 418: Senior Capstone (spring of senior year; SOC 301/302 as prerequisite)

Electives

Three (3) additional Sociology courses at any level. (Includes any rFLA or RCC courses offered by the Department)

Three (3) additional Sociology courses at the 300-level or higher (with prerequisite of any 100- or 200-level Sociology course).

Students interested in graduate school in Sociology are encouraged to take a Statistics class (chosen in consultation with the departmental advisor) to satisfy their Mathematical (M) competency.

Commented [AA1]: These courses are renumbered from 101, 203, 335

Commented [AA2]: Prerequisites are new

Commented [AA3]: We have removed Core II requirement (since we no longer offer those courses), requirement for another SocSci, and requirement for SOC 343, which we have deemed redundant with other content.

The Sociology Minor

The Sociology Minor consists of six (6) courses, four (4) of which must be taken at Rollins College.

Core Courses

SOC 201: The Sociological Perspective (recommended prior to junior year)

SOC 301: Methodology (fall of junior/senior year, SOC 101 as pre-requisite)

SOC 302: Sociological Theory (spring of junior/senior year, SOC 101 as pre-requisite)

Electives

Two (2) additional Sociology courses at any level.

One (1) additional Sociology courses at the 300-level or higher (with pre-requisite of any 100- or 200-level Sociology course).

Commented [AA4]: These courses are renumbered from 101, 203, 335

Commented [AA5]: We have removed the requirement for Core II, SOC 343, and Senior Seminar, and made room for more elective choices.

Transition to New Curriculum

These changes are effective Fall 2015. Students who declared the Sociology major or minor prior to this date may choose to complete the old or new requirements.

For students who choose to keep the old curriculum, we will accept any additional 300-level course as a substitute for SOC 343 Social Stratification, which will not be offered again after Spring 2014.

For students who choose the new curriculum and have already progressed to 301/302, we will accept SOC 211 (Social Problems) as a substitute for SOC 201 (The Sociological Perspective). Sociology minors who have taken SOC 418 (Senior Seminar) may count this as one of their electives. Majors or minors who have taken SOC 343 may count it as an upper level elective.

Course Renumbering

The following courses are being renumbered to 100-level to reflect their introductory nature, and suitability for non-majors:

SOC 208 Self and Society becomes SOC 108, and

SOC 211 Social Problems becomes SOC 111.

SOC 101, The Sociological Perspective, will be changed to SOC 201 to better reflect its role as an introduction to the major/minor.

SOC 203 Methodology, and SOC 335 Sociological Theory will be changed to SOC 301 and 302, respectively, to better reflect their position as a junior-level sequence for majors/minors.

New Prerequisites

We will offer 100- and 200- level SOC classes with no prerequisites.

SOC 301 and 302 will have a prerequisite of SOC 201.

All other 300-level courses will have a prerequisite of one other SOC class or permission of instructor.

SOC 418 (Senior Seminar) will have a prerequisite of SOC 301 and 302.

New Course Proposals

New course proposals will be submitted for three courses that have previously been offered as special topics: SOC 330 (Social Movements), SOC 331 (Civil Rights Movements), SOC 346 (Sexualities), and SOC 347 (Masculinities). A new course proposal will also be submitted for SOC 350 Class Inequality, as a replacement for SOC 343 (Social Stratification).

Catalog Changes to Course Listings

This new list reflects the numbering changes, prerequisites, and new courses added above, and also removes a number of courses that are no longer supported by the Department.

SOC ~~208-108~~ Self and Society: Introduces theories and research findings on socialization, identity formation, and presentation and actualization of self. Explores question of identity in contemporary American society and in everyday life. Suitable for nonmajors.

SOC ~~244-111~~ Social Problems: Follows traditional areas of social problem analysis (poverty, sexism, racism, and crime) as they evolve and transform society as a whole. Suitable for nonmajors.

SOC 112 The Family: Examines how political, economic, and social changes affect marriage and family. Highlights comparative family structure, divorce, abortion, homosexuality, and changing sex roles in light of larger social changes. Suitable for nonmajors.

SOC ~~404-201~~ The Sociological Perspective: Covers scope, methods, and general principles of the discipline. Focuses on group behavior, race relations, inequality, social institutions, and social change. Suitable for nonmajors.

~~SOC 102 American Society: Examines recent social, political, economic, and cultural changes and trends.~~

SOC ~~203-301~~ Methodology: Focuses on collecting, analyzing, and interpreting social data. Addresses research strategies and their ethical implications. Prerequisite: sociology major or consent. Prerequisite: SOC 201 or permission of instructor.

SOC ~~335-302~~ Sociological Theory: Examines concerns of early founders in light of contemporary trends within field. Addresses values in sociological inquiry, problem of applying general scientific model to sociology, and biases of researchers. Prerequisite: sociology major or consent. Prerequisite: SOC 201 or permission of instructor.

~~SOC 250 Sociology of Gender: Examines gender relations and the construction of femininity and masculinity in American society. Explores gender within the context of social institutions, including science, education, families, the economy, and sport. Suitable for nonmajors.~~

~~SOC 258 Animals and Society: Covers interspecies communication studies (particularly those focusing on dolphins, chimpanzees, and gorillas), role of pets in human society, trainer/performer relationship, and animal rights (factory farming, fur, use of animals in scientific experiments). Suitable for nonmajors.~~

~~SOC 308 The Body in Society: Investigates studies of gender, sexuality, and medicine which reveal that, far from being a biological given, the body is a construct altered by social forces that change over time.~~

~~Looks into eating disorders, physical appearance, sex, reproduction, illness, and abortion. Uses sociohistorical analyses and case studies.~~

SOC 311 Topics in Sociology: Analyzes such contemporary topics as emerging social movements, global society, and the female heroic. Varies from year to year. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

SOC 315 Sociology of Childhood: Examines childhood as both a social construct and lived experience. Addresses the various cultural and structural factors that shape conceptions of childhood, the structure of childhood in contemporary society, children's "social worlds," and children's perceptions and experiences of everyday life. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.~~Prerequisite: one SOC course.~~

~~SOC 317 Television and Society: Investigates role of TV in creating new social environments and reshaping conventions of time and space. Addresses impact of TV on family, gender, race and ethnic relations, education, and consumption. Prerequisite: one SOC course or consent.~~

~~SOC 320 Social Change: Considers effect of change on organization of societies, relationship of humans to the environment, and future lifestyles.~~

SOC 323 Sociology of Culture: Includes various theories of culture. Emphasizes field research and observation of phenomena such as fads, fashions, and media themes and characters. Prerequisite: sociology major or consent. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

~~SOC 324 Women in Society: Studies experiences created by differences in race, class, age, and sexual orientation. Presents theories about women's place in society. Discusses identity development, family relations, sexualities, paid and unpaid labor, feminization of poverty, violence, reproductive technologies, and feminist and antifeminist social movements.~~

SOC 325 Political Sociology: Reviews recent developments in American politics: structure of power in society, political significance of large corporations, relationship between business and government, and nature of American democracy. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

SOC 330 Social Movements New course proposal

SOC 331 Civil Rights Movement New course proposal

~~SOC 326 The Sociology of Kurt Vonnegut: Compares Vonnegut's writings with work of sociologist/economist Thorstein Veblen. Uses Vonnegut's fiction as a springboard for discussion of alienation, quest for meaning in bureaucratic environment, "imbecile institutions," dangers of technocracy, and growing reality of plutocratic society.~~

~~SOC 329 Sociology of the Sixties Counterculture: Emphasizes political protest (civil rights, antiwar, feminist), alternative living arrangements (communes, cooperatives), and lifestyle (music, clothing, celebrations).~~

~~SOC 333 Postmodern Society: Reviews recent debates about postmodernity using critical theory and sociology of knowledge approaches.~~

~~SOC 343 Social Stratification: Investigates various forms of structured social and economic inequality, concentrating primarily on race, class, and gender.~~

SOC 345 Sociology of Gender: Examines gender in American society, with an emphasis on the construction of femininity and masculinity in the context of major social institutions. Reviews various approaches to the study of gender that include elements of symbolic interactionism, constructionism, post-modernism, conflict theory, and feminist theory. Specific institutional contexts of the construction and management of gender, including science, schools, family, the economy, and sport, also considered. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

SOC 346 Sexualities New course proposal

SOC 347 Masculinities New course proposal

SOC 350 Class Inequality New course proposal

SOC 355 Race and Ethnic Relations: Explores colonization and immigration, assimilation and pluralism, prejudice and discrimination, and inequality and conflict past and present. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

SOC 356 The State of Black America: Examines political, economic, social and cultural standing of African Americans (both historical and contemporary), relationships between blacks and whites, and internal differentiation of black population. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

SOC 360 Poverty and Social Welfare: Focuses on changing composition of poverty population, war on poverty, public and academic debates, present-day American welfare system, and relationship between poverty, welfare, and inequality. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

SOC 367 Economy and Society: Analyzes American economic institutions, particularly the modern corporation, and the modern state. Relates shifting patterns of production and consumption to structural changes in late industrial capitalism. Measures impact of multinational corporations on community, environment, workers, and U.S. foreign policy. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.

SOC 371 Deviant Behavior: Investigates deviant behavior as the inverse of power: The more power a particular class of people possesses, the less likely they will be defined as deviant. Challenges students to redefine "deviance" and examine "normal" workings of U.S. institutions. Prerequisite: One SOC course or permission of instructor.~~Prerequisite: one SOC course or consent.~~

~~SOC 417 Research Seminar: Explores topics in contemporary sociology. Requires individual research projects and oral reports. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: one SOC course or consent.~~

SOC 418 Senior Seminar: Develops common grounding in a specific subject to serve as a framework for individual projects. Requires oral reports. Prerequisites: ~~core courses~~ SOC 301 and 302 and senior standing.