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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Clifford Brown  
Chair of Undergraduate Programs Committee  
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

**From:** Lynn Appleton, Chair of Sociology

**Date:** August 26, 2014

**RE:** Change in degree requirements for B.A. in Sociology

The members of the Department of Sociology have voted unanimously in favor of the following changes to the BA program in Sociology:

1. Add the following pre-requisite for all 4000-level courses in Sociology:
  - At least 9 credits of coursework in Sociology at the 1000, 2000, or 3000 levels (or permission of instructor)
2. Change the level of the following courses from 4000 to 3000-level
  - SYD 4700 Race and Ethnic Relations → SYD 3700
  - SYO 4530 Class, Status, and Power → SYO 3530
  - SYO 4400 Social Change → SYO 3400
  - SYO 4100 Family & Society → SYO 3100
  - SYP 4110 Self & Society → SYP 3110
  - SYP 4570 Social Control & Deviance → SYP 3570
  - SYP 4650 Sociology of Sport → SYP 3650
3. Maintain the requirement of 30 credits in 3000- and 4000-level sociology courses, but require a minimum of 15 credits of coursework at the 4000-level. This coursework must include:
  - SYA 4010 Sociological Theory or SYA 4120 Contemporary Social Theory
  - SYA 4300 Survey of Methods
  - A minimum of three additional 4000-level substantive courses

**Rationale:** We are shifting our curriculum from a focus on coverage to a focus on the progressive acquisition of skills/knowledge, responding to deliberations that preceded and followed our recent program review. We are targeting 1000, 2000, and 3000 level courses for foundational skills and disciplinary knowledge. More advanced skills and knowledge can then be the focus of the 4000 level classes. So, for example, students would learn how to accurately summarize an argument in 3000-level classes; in 4000-level classes, they would work on identifying the empirical implications of a given argument.

Currently, our curriculum does not have a prerequisite structure. Combined with Boca campus classes that have typically filled to capacity at 50, this has made it difficult for us to ensure student skill development. This new

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curriculum, combined with a new approach to class scheduling and capacity, is intended to resolve that problem while ensuring that we are able to serve equally well our FTIC majors, majors who have transferred in from the state colleges, minors, and the large number of non-majors who want to take sociology because it complements their field of study. Our plan is to run the 3000-level courses at a high capacity of 75-100 while reducing the size of our 4000-level courses to 35-40. Through our high capacity 3000-level courses, we will maintain accessibility to non-majors, minors, and potential majors and minors. In all such courses, students will be introduced to core sociological concepts, theoretical perspectives, and research methodologies. Faculty who use multiple, low-stakes writing to cultivate and assess student understanding will get GTA assistance in their classes; to the greatest degree possible, we want the 3000 level classes to develop both skills and basic knowledge. By reducing the size of our 4000-level courses and requiring a minimum of nine credits of sociology below the 4000-level as a prerequisite to 4000-level courses, we will be able to presume that students in our 4000-level classes have background knowledge in the discipline and a basic set of analytic skills. This will let us take them further in our 4000-level courses than we have been able to do.

We would like to have this new curriculum implemented in Spring 2015, if possible.

Approved by:

College UPC Chair [Signature] Date: 9/22/14

College Dean [Signature] Date: 9-24-14

UUPC Chair [Signature] Date: 10/3/14

Provost \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Studies Dean [Signature] Date: 10/3/14

UFS President \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

