



FINAL FACULTY SENATE APPROVAL ON FEBRUARY 14, 2017

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**MEMORANDUM**

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TO: Faculty Senate  
FROM: Jack Kirby *JRK*  
DATE: January 25, 2017  
SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposal #16-17-05, REV #1  
Sociology of Religion

I recommend approval of the attached REVISION #1 of Curriculum Proposal 16-17-05. This proposal seeks to create an elective called Sociology of Religion; eliminate the separate population studies B.S. based on low enrollment; and make in-active and remove from the catalog GEOG 3340, GEOG 3370, and GEOG 3399.

Dr. Christina Lavorata  
Dr. Deanna Shields  
Dr. Chris Kast  
Ms. Leslie Lovett  
Ms. Laura Ransom  
Dr. Shayne Gervais



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## **MEMORANDUM**

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TO: Curriculum Committee

FROM: Jack Kirby *JRK*

DATE: January 23, 2017

SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposal #16-17-05, REV #1  
Sociology of Religion

I recommend approval of the attached REVISION #1 of Curriculum Proposal 16-17-05. This proposal seeks to create an elective called Sociology of Religion; eliminate the separate population studies B.S. based on low enrollment; and make in-active and remove from the catalog GEOG 3340, GEOG 3370, and GEOG 3399.

Dr. Christina Lavorata  
Dr. Deanna Shields  
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Ms. Leslie Lovett  
Ms. Laura Ransom  
Dr. Shayne Gervais



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## **MEMORANDUM**

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TO: Curriculum Committee

FROM: Jack Kirby *JKR*

DATE: October 17, 2016

SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposal #16-17-05  
Sociology of Religion

I recommend approval of the attached Curriculum Proposal 16-17-05. This proposal seeks to create an elective called Sociology of Religion; eliminate the separate population studies B.S. based on low enrollment; and make in-active and remove from the catalog GEOG 1199, GEOG 3340, GEOG 3370, and GEOG 3399.

Dr. Christina Lavorata  
Dr. Deanna Shields  
Dr. Chris Kast  
Ms. Leslie Lovett  
Ms. Laura Ransom  
Dr. Shayne Gervais

**CURRICULUM PROPOSAL** (Submit one hard copy and an electronic copy to the Associate Provost by the second Tuesday of the month.)

**Proposal Number:** 16-17-05

**School/Department/Program:** Liberal Arts - Behavioral Sciences –Sociology/Geography

**Preparer/Contact Person:** Chris Kast

**Telephone Extension:** 4236

**Date Originally Submitted:** 10-11-2016

**Revision (Indicate date and label it  
Revision #1, #2, etc.):** 1/23/17 Revision #1

**Implementation Date Requested:** FALL 2017

- I. **PROPOSAL.** Write a brief abstract, not exceeding 100 words, which describes the overall content of the proposal.

The proposal has three components.

- Create a sociology elective called the Sociology of Religion that has recently been under special topics.
- Eliminate the separate population studies B.S. based on historically low enrollment
- Make in-active and remove from the catalog GEOG 3340, GEOG 3370, and GEOG 3399.

- II. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL.** Provide a response for each letter, A-H, and for each Roman Numeral II–V. If any section does not apply to your proposal, reply N/A.

- A. Deletion of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

GEOG 3340  
GEOG 3370  
GEOG 3399

Total hours deleted. NA

- B. Addition of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

Total hours added. NA

- C. Provision for interchangeable use of course(s) with program(s)

NA

- D. Revision of course content. Include, as an appendix, a revised course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the university catalog.

NA

- E. Other changes to existing courses such as changes to title, course number, and elective or required status.

NA

- F. Creation of new course(s). For each new course

1. Designate the course number, title, units of credit, prerequisites (if any), ownership (FSU or shared) and specify its status as an elective or required course. If you are creating a shared course, attach a memo from the Deans of the affected Schools explaining the rationale for the course being shared.

SOCY 3350 Sociology of Religion                      3hrs    FSU    Elective

2. Include, as an appendix, a course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the college catalog.

See appendix A

3. Include, as an appendix, a detailed course outline consisting of at least two levels.

See Appendix B

4. In order to meet the requirements as outlined in Goal One of the Strategic Plan, please include Outcome Competencies and Methods of Assessment as an appendix. Examples are available upon request from the Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

See appendix C

- G. Attach an itemized summary of the present program(s) affected, if any, and of the proposed change(s).

Describe how this proposal affects the hours needed to complete this program. Specifically, what is the net gain or loss in hours? Use the format for Current and Proposed Programs in Appendix A.

Not applicable as all courses are electives.

III. **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSAL.**

A. **Quantitative Assessment:** Indicate the types of assessment data, i.e., surveys, interviews, capstone courses, projects, licensure exams, nationally-normed tests, locally developed measurements, accreditation reports, etc., that were collected and analyzed to determine that curricular changes were warranted. Quantitative data is preferred.

The addition of the sociology of religion course is based upon good enrollment during the semesters that it was taught as a special topics course. Overall, 43 students enrolled between the two semesters, which is good for an elective seminar course. In addition this will increase the options in the organizations and institutions area of emphasis in the sociology major from two to three.

Based upon critically low enrollment and a lack of institutional resources to rebuild it has been determined that the program can no longer offer a separate degree in population studies. Enrollment in this degree has typically ranged between 0-2 students each year. A broader lack of resources has convinced us that those resources currently being directed toward this degree would be better served by strengthening the general sociology program. Long term plans to incubate a demography emphasis within the general sociology program instead of as a separate degree is currently being discussed.

The only student currently in the program has completed the population studies specific courses at this time. Regardless, faculty have committed to offering any legacy students the necessary courses they would need to complete as an independent study. This isn't a significant change from the current practice as the low enrollment already necessitated the use of independent study due to the lack of the numbers for traditional courses.

The decision to eliminate the geography courses is related to again a lack of institutional resources. Our inability to replace a doctoral level geographer who retired has meant that a member of the sociology faculty has been splitting his time between the two disciplines. This has resulted in only certain classes being able to be offered on a regular basis

B. **Qualitative Assessment:** Based upon the assessment data above, indicate why a curricular change is justified. Indicate the expected results of the change. Be sure to include an estimate of the increased cost, or reduction in cost of implementation. FOR EXAMPLE: Will new faculty, facilities, equipment, or library materials be required?

Historically, as budgets have gotten leaner a diminishing amount of faculty have attempted to support an increasingly fragmented curriculum. The current changes will be mostly administrative within the catalog. It is our hope that these changes will provide us with additional flexibility in the use of our resources, which should have long term positive effects on our students.

IV. Should this proposal affect any course or program in another school, a memo must be sent to the Dean of each school impacted and a copy of the memo(s) must be included with this proposal. In addition, the Deans of the affected schools must sign below to indicate their notification of this proposal.

By signing here, you are indicating your college's/school's notification of this proposal.

College/School	Dean	Signature
College of Liberal Arts	Dr. Shields	
see following page		

V. Should this proposal affect any course to be added or deleted from the general studies requirements, a memo from the chair of the General Studies Committee indicating approval of the change must be included with this proposal.

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

III. **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSAL.**

- A. **Quantitative Assessment:** Indicate the types of assessment data, i.e., surveys, interviews, capstone courses, projects, licensure exams, nationally-normed tests, locally developed measurements, accreditation reports, etc., that were collected and analyzed to determine that curricular changes were warranted. Quantitative data is preferred.

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By signing here, you are indicating your college's/school's notification of this proposal.

College/School	Dean	Signature
College of Liberal Arts	Dr. Shields	<i>Deanna Shields</i>

- V. Should this proposal affect any course to be added or deleted from the general studies requirements, a memo from the chair of the General Studies Committee indicating approval of the change must be included with this proposal.

VI. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.**



## Appendix A: Course Description

SOCY 3350    Sociology of Religion                    3hrs    FSU    Elective

This course seeks to introduce undergraduate students to the nature and functions of religious beliefs and institutions in modern societies, with a primary emphasis on conditions in the contemporary United States.

Appendix B: Course Outline

SOCY 3350    Sociology of Religion                    3hrs    FSU    Elective

- Introduction
  - Religion and Philosophy
  - Religion and Psychology
- Spirituality
  - Conversion and Membership
  - Betwixt and Between
- Dogma – Creeds and Beliefs
  - Church Polity
  - Church Denominationalism
- Religious Specialists
  - Music and Spirituality
  - Politics – Civil Religion
- Social Issues
  - Social Gospel
  - Funerals and Mission

Appendix C: Assessment

SOCY 3350 Sociology of Religion

3hrs FSU Elective

Course Outcomes	Direct Assessment Measures	Satisfactory Performance Standards
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to	Student performance with respect to this outcome will be measured by	Satisfactory student performance on the direct assessment measure will consist of
Student will be able to analyze the multidimensional aspects of religiosity.	Research Project	70% percent of students will score at a 70% or higher on the project.
Students will be able to compare life as experienced by major religious denominations in America.	Article Essays	70% percent of students will score at a 70% or higher on the project.