

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4118S
Date of Senate Approval 04/05/18

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 34 (SOC/ANTH): Delete SOC/ANTH 420, Difference and Inequality

Effective Date: Fall 2018

1. Delete: On page 287, the entry for **ANTH 420:**

420 Difference and Inequality (SOC 420) (4)

Investigates the most significant categories of difference on the cultural landscape of American society—social class, race, sex and gender, sexual identity and disability. Course content emphasizes structural inequality and the social construction of difference and privilege. The construction of difference is analyzed by deconstructing racialized, gendered, heteronormative and ableist hierarchal structures and theoretical explanations on social reproduction and social change. How do categories of people come to be seen as “different”? How does being seen as “different” affect peoples’ lived experience? What meaning does difference and inequality have for social interaction, social institutions, or culture? What difference does “difference” make? How does science and popular culture produce meaning relative to difference and inequality? What role does ideology play in the construction, experience and meaning of difference? Particular attention is given to the interaction and intersections among categories of difference. Prerequisite: ANTH or SOC 225. Fall and Spring.

2. Delete: On page 291, the entry for **SOC 420:**

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Investigates the most significant categories of difference on the cultural landscape of American society—social class, race, sex and gender, sexual identity and disability. Course content emphasizes structural inequality and the social construction of difference and privilege. The construction of difference is analyzed by deconstructing racialized, gendered, heteronormative and ableist hierarchal structures and theoretical explanations on social reproduction and social change. How do categories of people come to be seen as “different”? How does being seen as “different” affect peoples’ lived experience? What meaning does difference and inequality have for social interaction, social institutions, or culture? What difference does “difference” make? How does science and popular culture produce meaning relative to difference and inequality? What role does ideology play in the construction, experience and meaning of difference? Particular attention is given to the interaction and intersections among categories of difference. Prerequisite: ANTH or SOC 225. Fall and Spring.

Impact: We foresee no impact on the curriculum due to the elimination of the course. Many other electives in our department are taught at the 300-400 level and offer in-depth analyses of the workings of inequality; many are also listed as Diversity Intensives. ANTH/SOC 420 is currently a required course for Anthropology and Sociology majors. These students will choose an additional 300-400 level elective which will provide additional flexibility for satisfying requirements. Similarly, other majors and minors who may have used this course can easily substitute another Sociology course as several of our electives deal with issues of inequality.

Rationale: The content of ANTH/SOC 420, including structural inequality, intersectionality, and the experience of difference, is infused in a number of our department's electives in both Anthropology and Sociology. Deleting the course will allow us to offer additional specialized electives, especially in the areas of race and economic inequality.