

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD1921S

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 16 (SOC/ANTH):

Add new courses:

ANTH 340, Anthropology of Bees

SOC 330, Sociology of Families

SOC 395, Class, Power, and Inequality

Effective Date: Fall 2021

1. **Add:** On page 292, new course, **ANTH 340, Anthropology of Bees:**

340 Anthropology of Bees (4)

Explores human interest in and relations with honeybees (judging by ancient rock art, our fascination with honeybees is one of our oldest). The class will also take a long look at honey-bee sociality, hive organization, and communication. These have strong family resemblances to our own. Many beekeepers and scholars suggest that human decision-making and conflict resolution could benefit by learning a few lessons from honeybees. Class includes field trips to nearby apiaries and opportunities to inspect beehives and see honey bees in action. Even years Spring.

Impact: This course will serve as an elective and count toward the total hours required of majors and minors in Anthropology and Sociology. The course is not part of LAC or currently associated with any other program. The course has been offered as a Special Topics course in several previous semesters. The enrollment average for the course has been 25 students and is anticipated to remain in that range. This is a lecture/discussion course with some associated field trips. The main learning goal of the course is students will understand parallels between bee colonies and human society. They will learn how honeybee colonies communicate with one another, how they make collective decisions, and what human societies can learn from bees about our own communication skills and decision-making practices. Common for electives within the department, there is one faculty (John Wood) who will be offering this course in the spring on even years. Offering the course once during every two-year period allows for the faculty to continue offering other needed required courses (ANTH 100 once a year, ANTH 336 once a year, ANTH 464 once a year, two other ANTH electives every year).

2. **Add:** On page 295, new course, **SOC 330, Sociology of Families:**

330 Sociology of Families (4)

Provides a broad overview of important concepts, theories, and research methods in family studies from an interdisciplinary (anthropology, history, psychology, sociology) perspective. It uses a contextual, intersectional approach that focuses on

how the larger social and ecological environment (e.g., culture, community, and neighborhood) and local institutions (e.g., government, school, and workplace) influence family relationships and experiences over time. Throughout the course, particular attention will be given to the diversity of family forms and how they are shaped by race/ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, and gender. Odd years Spring.

Impact: This course will serve as an elective and count toward the total hours required of majors and minors in Anthropology and Sociology. The course is not part of LAC or currently associated with any other program. The course has been offered as a Special Topics course in several previous semesters. The enrollment average for the course has been 25 students and is anticipated to remain in that range. This is a lecture/discussion course. The main learning goal of the course is that students will understand how social, cultural, economic and historical factors influence diverse family structures and dynamics across the life cycle and to apply a contextual, intersectional perspective to understanding family life. This course is taught by one faculty member (Shawn Mendez) and it will be offered in the spring of odd years (possibly more often). The faculty regularly teaches 4 required courses per year (WGSS 100 each semester, SOC 338 one semester, SOC/ANTH 305/405 one semester) and 2 electives. This course is one of those electives so adding it to the schedule does not disrupt the delivery of the curriculum.

3. **Add:** On page 296, new course, **SOC 395, Class, Power and Inequality:**

395 Class, Power and Inequality (4)

Examines research and theory in the area of class inequality. Over the course of the semester, we explore theories of social class, learn about *how* and *why* class inequality has increased over time, and examine how these changes affect social mobility. We also investigate how class intersects with other axes of inequality—race, gender, sexuality, and immigration status—to produce distinct life outcomes and experiences in terms of employment, schooling, housing and health, among others. Where possible, we assess the relationship between social class and power and study how individuals and collectives protect or challenge the class structure. Finally, we reflect on community and national-level strategies oriented towards mitigating social inequality and facilitating meaningful social change. Junior or senior standing is recommended. Fall.

Impact: This course will serve as an elective and count toward the total hours required of majors and minors in Anthropology and Sociology. The course is not part of LAC or currently associated with any other program. The course has been offered as a Special Topics course in several previous semesters. The enrollment average for the course has been 25 students and is anticipated to remain in that range. This is a lecture/discussion course. The main learning goal is that by the end of the course, students will be able to articulate how social class informs life in the United States and contributes to social inequality. This course is currently taught by one faculty (Megan Underhill) but could probably be taught by another faculty if she were not available. It will be taught every year in the Fall. The faculty offers 2-3 required courses per year (SOC/ANTH225) and 2-3 elective courses per year. This course is one of those electives and therefore fits within existing offering patterns.

Rationale for adding the three courses: As mentioned previously, current faculty members have taught multiple sections of each of these three course additions over the past several years as Special Topics courses. Each course is already integrated into the faculty's schedule of course offerings as well as the curriculum in the department. When offered as special topics, each of these courses has had an enrollment average of 25 students. Faculty have continued to remain available to teach other required and elective courses in the major/minor. More specifically, the course additions reflect the current expertise of the faculty in the department (two relatively newer faculty and one who has pursued a newer area of research). The courses contribute to the variety of electives that are offered in Sociology and Anthropology, providing students with options to complete their major and minor elective requirements (20 hours).