

3-6-1978

Revised Major in Sociology

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Routing # 13 77-78

Resolution # 12
1977-1978

Revised Major in Sociology

TO: PRESIDENT ALBERT W. BROWN

FROM: THE FACULTY SENATE

Meeting on March 6, 1978
(Date)

RE: x I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
 II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
 III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Revised Major in Sociology

(See attached)



Signed: [Signature] Date Sent 3/14/78
(For the Senate)

Harold Greenstein, President, Faculty Senate

TO: THE FACULTY SENATE

FROM: PRESIDENT ALBERT W. BROWN

RE: I. DECISION AND ACTION TAKEN ON FORMAL RESOLUTION

- a. Accepted. Effective Date March 20 1978
- b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on _____
- c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

- II., III. a. Received and acknowledged
- b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: (V) Louis J. Nigro

Others as identified: Acad Ad, Soc Senate, Academic Sociology

Distribution Date: _____

Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: APR 3 1978

APR 3 1978

March 1, 1973

TO: Dr. Harold Greenstein, President, and Member of the Faculty Senate
FROM: James D. Jones, Chairman, Sociology Department
RE: Revised Major in Sociology

Attached is a copy of our proposed revised major program along with some of the considerations which led to and shaped this revision. The purpose of this memo is to briefly expand on the nature of our major, past and present, thus providing some context for the proposal under consideration.

Our present major program was implemented in the Fall of 1974. It was a considerable revision of our previous major which, it was felt at the time, was not providing all majors with sufficient and common basic grounding in the discipline. The Department's concern with the quality of the major (and other pragmatic concerns) resulted in a substantial restructuring of our curriculum. This included the addition of research methods as a major requirement, the introduction of new courses, and the renumbering of courses which identified prerequisite courses for more advanced study in the various subfields of sociology. The requirements of our current major are as follows:

Required Courses:

- (1) SOC 100, Introduction to Sociology
- (2) SOC 200, Social Statistics
- (3) SOC 300, Recurrent Theoretical Issues
- (4) SOC 310, Sociological Research Methods
- (5) At least one 400-level seminar in a particular subfield of sociology
- (6) 13 additional credits in sociology

Total hours for major in Sociology: 33

Recommended:

- (1) Students are strongly advised to meet requirements (1) through (4) above before enrolling in a 400-level seminar.
- (2) Students planning to enroll in graduate study should also elect an advanced research methods course and an advanced course in sociological theory.

While these requirements do provide all majors with a common grounding in the discipline it is now felt that this should be supplemented in different ways for students pursuing different post-graduate alternatives. It is our

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judgment that the identification of courses of study consistent with career goals will enhance the quality of a major in Sociology. The present proposed revision is an attempt to better meet the needs of the wide variety of students which we serve. Specifically, we propose three relatively well structured optional courses of study within the major, as follows:

- Major Option 1: Liberal Education in Sociology
- Major Option 2: The World of Work
- Major Option 3: Preparation for Graduate Study in Sociology

JDJ:g
Attach.

REVISED MAJOR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Department of Sociology attempted to discover more about the composition of its student constituency by means of a survey administered in the Fall semester, 1976. Subsequent planning for curricular revision (including design of a new major) was very much influenced by the surprising results: Only 20% of the students in sociology classes either were or intended to be sociology majors. Most non-majors were to be found in lower-division courses. Fully 40% of our students in all courses were transfer students, and 75% of our majors were transfer students.

The Department's Curriculum Committee undertook the task of curricular revision with the above information in mind. They decided to increase the number of offerings at the 200-level for the sake of the large number of non-majoring sociology students. They decided to revise the major, not in order to increase the number of students choosing the major, but rather in order to put the substantial resources of the department (and the college) to more effective use for the education of undergraduate sociology majors.

GOALS

The Curriculum Committee agreed that the general aim of a sociology program should be the transmission of sociology's unique perspective on human behavior. The student should not only become acquainted with that perspective, but should also acquire substantive knowledge about human social life.

Inseparable from the learning about perspective and knowledge of findings, it was thought, would be an attempt to further the student's ability to deal with the world by means of training in logical thinking, in basic research and writing skills and in theoretic and historical perspectives which can be used to illuminate the realities of everyday life.

A further goal involved paying serious attention to the students' post-graduation fate. While there is not a specific post-baccalaureate occupational career in sociology itself, the committee took the view that the interests of our majors could be served in a variety of ways: The provision of information on various institutions (economy, education, polity, family, religion) in anticipation of the student's post-graduate involvement in these institutions, and through preparation for graduate studies in sociology or in such closely allied fields as law, public administration, business administration, public health, urban planning, social work, and policy studies.

THE THREE ALTERNATIVES FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS

Finally, it was decided by the Curriculum Committee that the interests of our undergraduate majors would best be served by offering them alternative tracks, each track being characterized by a somewhat different emphasis. The first track provides the student who chooses to follow it with a strong liberal-arts emphasis. The student is not only trained in sociology as a liberal-arts discipline, but is enabled to follow out the methodological, philosophical, and historical threads leading from sociology to other disciplines. The second track requires the student to acquire and use sociological tools and insights to examine and prepare for the world of work. Focus will be on the characteristics of the institutions and organizations in which post-baccalaureate life is lived-out. Close attention will

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be paid to apprenticeships in those skills held by sociologists which are directly transferrable to occupational life outside of academic sociology. A third track is designed for the rather small number of students who may wish to prepare specifically for graduate training in the field of sociology.

Attached are the course requirements for these three tracks.

MAJOR OPTIONS IN SOCIOLOGY

Major Option 1. Liberal Education in Sociology

The purpose of this major option is to provide the student with a broadly-based acquaintance with the sociological perspectives, and with the fundamental knowledges which sociology offers. Students may pursue Option 1 either for the B.S. degree or for the B.A. degree.

Requirements:

- (1) Sociology 100, Introduction to Sociology
- (2) Sociology 300, Sociological Theory
- (3) Sociology 310, Methods of Sociological Research
- (4) 21 additional credits to be distributed so as to include one course in each of the four course clusters.

For the B.A. degree:

- (A) Completion of the college-wide language requirements
- (B) Completion of the college-wide course requirements of 90 liberal arts credits
- (C) 6 credits at the 300 or 400 level in one of the following fields: Anthropology, History, Philosophy, or a field selected by the student with explicit, prior departmental approval.

For the B.S. degree:

- (A) Completion of 75 liberal arts credits
- (B) 12 credits at the 300 or 400 level in at least one of the following fields: Anthropology, History, Philosophy, or a field selected by the student with explicit, prior departmental approval.

Recommended (in Student Handbook):

- (1) The student is encouraged to complete either Sociology 200, Social Statistics, or Philosophy 202, Logic.

Major Option 2. The Worlds of Work

The purpose of this major option is to provide the student with sociological information and analysis pertinent to work in various career and organizational milieux. The context of this major and its relevance to various courses is to be spelled out in the handbook.

Requirements:

- (1) Sociology 100, Introduction to Sociology
- (2) Sociology 200, Social Statistics
- (3) Sociology 300, Sociological Theory
- (4) Sociology 310, Methods of Sociological Research
- (5) Sociology 320, Introduction to Social Psychology
- (6) Sociology 416, Sociology of Complex Organizations
- (7) Six credits selected from the following courses:
Sociology 321, Social Stratification
Sociology 417, Industrial Sociology

Major Option 2. The Worlds of Work

Requirements: (continued)

- Sociology 418, Occupations and Professions
- Sociology 424, Human Relations in Small Groups
- (8) 12 additional credits in sociology chosen with faculty guidance and depending upon student interest.

Recommended (in Student Handbook):

- (1) Sociology 413, Techniques of Social Data Analysis
- (2) Advanced Research Methods
- (3) It is strongly recommended that students electing this option take courses in other fields related to their desired occupation. Examples may be found in the Sociology Student Handbook available at the Department.

Major Option 3. Preparation for Graduate Work in Sociology

The purpose of this major option is to prepare the student for entry into graduate work in sociology.

Requirements:

- (1) Sociology 100, Introduction to Sociology
- (2) Sociology 200, Social Statistics
- (3) Sociology 300, Sociological Theory
- (4) Sociology 310, Methods of Social Research
- (5) An additional 400 level theory course.
- (6) An additional 400 level research methods course.
- (7) At least one course from each of the four course clusters.

Recommended (in Student Handbook):

- (1) At least two courses each in anthropology, world history, and mathematics useful for sociological analysis.
- (2) At least one course in each of the following: political science, psychology, philosophy, economics, and computer science.
- (3) The student should take as many courses in statistics, research methods, and theory as is possible.
- (4) Intermediate-level proficiency in one of the following foreign languages: French, German, Spanish or a language approved by the Department. Further college-level study of a foreign language is recommended for those already competent in that language.
- (5) The student is well advised to take such courses as population, social change, and race relations.

Course Clusters:¹

The four clusters represent major branches of the field of sociology. The courses included in a cluster are exemplar of or generic to that branch of the discipline.

Cluster A: Social Psychology

Sociology 317, Prejudice, Personality and Culture
Sociology 320, Introduction to Social Psychology
Sociology 371, Crime, Deviance and Social Control
Sociology 424, Human Relations in Small Groups
Sociology 425, Socialization

Cluster B: Social Organization

Sociology 281, Urban Sociology
Sociology 301, Cultural Sociology
Sociology 311, Social Organization
Sociology 321, Social Stratification
Sociology 341, Population and Society
Sociology 415, Social Change
Sociology 416, Sociology of Complex Organizations
Sociology 418, Occupations and Professions

Cluster C: Social Institutions

Sociology 259, Black Church
Sociology 302, Comparative Sociology
Sociology 312, Sociology of Religion
Sociology 314, Black Family
Sociology 361, Sex, Marriage, and the Family
Sociology 408, Sociology of Art and Literature
Sociology 417, Industrial Sociology
Sociology 419, Political Sociology
Sociology 431, Sociology of Medicine²
Sociology 454, Sociology of War and Conflict²
Sociology 493, Mass Communications
Sociology 494, Sociology of Education
Sociology 496, Social Welfare as an Institution²

Cluster D: Social Problems of Issues and Policies

Sociology 210, Social Problems
Sociology 251, Collective Behavior
Sociology 331, The Sociology of Mental Illness
Sociology 371, Crime, Deviance and Social Control
Sociology 428, Racial and Ethnic Minorities
Sociology 464, Sex Roles and Social Change
Sociology 474, Crime Prevention Control and Treatment
Sociology 475, Juvenile Delinquency

¹There are other courses being offered by the Department of Sociology which are not in any cluster. However other courses may be offered that are not listed, but may by *permission* to the Departmental Curriculum Committee meet the requirement in any cluster.

²There should be a note in the student handbook to the effect that this course is not currently available every semester.