UCONN | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA AND COURSES

Proposal to Add a New Undergraduate Course

Last revised: September xx, 2013

1. Date: 10/29/13
2. Department requesting this course: Sociology
3. Semester and year in which course will be first offered: Spring 2014

Final Catalog Listing

Assemble this after you have completed the components below. This listing should not contain any information that is not listed below!

SOCI 2271. The Social Construction of Happiness
Three credits.
The pursuit of "happiness" as a social construction which is shaped by and helps shapes human societies and their various social structures and processes. Topics include: the social evolution of the concept of happiness; the social, economic and political exploitation of the pursuit of happiness; insights into the nature of happiness offered by various religious and spiritual traditions; the social correlates of happiness; and the social implications of widespread happiness.

Items Included in Catalog Listing

Obligatory Items

1. Standard abbreviation for Department, Program or Subject Area: Soci
2. Course Number:2271
3. Course Title: The Social Construction of Happiness
4. Number of Credits: 3
5. Course Description (second paragraph of catalog entry):

This course examines the pursuit of "happiness" as a social construction which is shaped by and helps shapes human societies and their various social structures and processes. To this end it explores the social causes, nature, and consequences of the pursuit of happiness as a socially defined and organized phenomenon. Based on the assumption that--whether it is called happiness, joy, spirituality, or simply, higher consciousness-- there is, indeed, a profoundly positive state of well-being and life meaning that can be either nurtured or inhibited by social forces, the course delineates the various social and cultural factors associated with its realization. Topics explored include: the cultural origins and evolution of the concept of happiness; the social, economic and political exploitation of the pursuit of happiness; insights into the nature of happiness offered by various religious and spiritual traditions and by modern human potential movements; the social

correlates of happiness; and the social and cultural implications of widespread happiness.

Optional Items

6. Pattern of instruction, if not standard: NA
7. Prerequisites, if applicable: NA
    a. Consent of Instructor, if applicable: NA
    b. Open to sophomores/juniors or higher: NA
8. Recommended Preparation, if applicable: NA
9. Exclusions, if applicable: NA
10. Repetition for credit, if applicable: NA
11. Skill codes "W", "Q" or "C": NA
12. University General Education Content Area, if any:
    If Content Area 1, CLAS areas A-E: NA
13. S/U grading: NA

Justification

1. Reasons for adding this course:
To give the course its own course title and number. It is currently taught as Soci 3271, Variables Topics in the Sociology of Culture
2. Academic merit:
This course will introduce students to a growing interdisciplinary body of literature on happiness as well as relevant sociology specialties like the sociology of culture and the sociology of emotions. It also addresses important issues relevant to the humanities and liberal arts.
3. Overlapping courses: None
4. Number of students expected: 70 and larger
5. Number and size of sections: 1 midsize or large
6. Effects on other departments: None
7. Effects on regional campuses: I will continue to also offer it at the Greater Hartford Campus under this new name and number
8. Staffing: Noel A. Cazenave
9. Dates approved by
   Department Curriculum Committee:
   Department Faculty:
10. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person:
Noel A. Cazenave 860-548-9799 cazenave@uconn.edu

Syllabus

A syllabus for the new course must be attached to your submission email.