

University of Connecticut
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Committee on Curricula and Courses

Proposal to Add a New Undergraduate Course

Last revised: December 8, 2003

See "[Instructions for completing CLAS CC&C forms](#)" for general instructions and specific notes.

1. Date: 10/16/2013
2. Department requesting this course: Sociology
3. Semester and year in which course will be first offered:
First or Second 20XX

Final catalog Listing (see [Note A](#)):

Assemble this after you have completed the components below. This listing should not contain any information that is not listed below! See Note A for examples of how undergraduate and graduate courses are listed.

Items included in catalog Listing:

Obligatory Items

1. Standard abbreviation for Department or Program (see [Note O](#)): SOCI
2. Course Number (see [Note B](#)): 2XXX
If using a specific number (e.g. "254" instead of "2XX"), have you checked with the Registrar that this number is available for use? ___ Yes ___ No
3. Course Title: Society and Climate Change
4. Semester offered (see [Note C](#)): Either Semester
5. Number of Credits (see [Note D](#)): Three Credits
6. Course description (second paragraph of catalog entry -- see [Note K](#)):
Sociological perspectives on the social, economic and political causes of global climate change and the social, economic, political *and* environmental consequences.

Optional Items

7. Number of Class Periods, if not standard (see [Note E](#)):
8. Prerequisites, if applicable (see [Note F](#)): No Prerequisites
9. Recommended Preparation, if applicable (see [Note G](#)): SOCI 1001
10. Consent of Instructor, if applicable (see [Note T](#)) -
11. Exclusions, if applicable (see [Note H](#)):-
12. Repetition for credit, if applicable (see [Note I](#)):-
13. Instructor(s) names if they will appear in catalog copy (see [Note J](#)):-
14. Open to Sophomores (see [Note U](#)): Open to sophomores or higher
15. Skill Codes "W", "Q", or "C" (see [Note T](#)): -
16. S/U grading (see [Note W](#)): -

Justification

1. Reasons for adding this course: (see Note L) Climate change is a topic of increasing global importance as evidence continues to grow indicating the need for a more complex understanding of the social issues involved. No such course coverage exists at UCONN.

2. Academic Merit (see Note L):

This course will present a historical overview of the relationship between human societies and the environment (themselves) in order to shed light on this historical moment in human history. This moment is historic because some human societies- generally speaking those in the industrialized West- seem to be threatening our very survival in terms of changing the climate of the planet. Given that from a sociological perspective this situation is understood to be socially based, the purpose of this class is to investigate: what is happening in relation to the environment as in anthropogenic climate change / ecosystem collapse; what and who are possibly the causes in terms of the intersections of social class / race / gender and the ideologies of progress and prosperity; how and why these changes are happening; what are the potential negative repercussions and to whom again in terms of social class / race / gender, as well as geographic region and species; and finally what are some social solutions in terms of mitigation and adaptation on the part of individuals / communities / institutions / governments / nations / corporations ...etc. Given the complexity of the topic students will do readings from many different perspectives and disciplines, although all will support the evidence that anthropogenic climate change and on-going ecological destruction are realities. To this end students will also explore in depth why this position remains nevertheless debated and what are the social issues involved in the opposing views. Finally, in addressing Western culture's relationship with nature / itself this course will attempt to spark students' interest and motivate their actions by engaging a uniquely creative and innovative form of pedagogy.

3. Overlapping Courses (see Note M): ANTH 1010 Global Climate Change and Human Societies

4. Number of Students Expected: 45

5. Number and Size of Section: ?

6. Effects on Other Departments (see Note N): I contacted Dr. Merrill Singer whose course comes closest to this proposed course. Prof Singer felt that his course and my proposed course have some overlap. I do too, but feel that they are complementary. This proposed course covers many sociological topics that his doesn't like: global capitalism, US government / US corporate collusion, war, corporate media, international development, ideologies and social constructions of culture, including gender, race, social class, the Western body, religion, science, technology, nationalism and concepts of progress, prosperity, wealth and pedagogy.

I also contacted Dr. Mark Boyer in Environmental Studies who reviewed the proposal and fully supports the course.

Finally, I contacted Dr. Matthew Singer in Poli Sci who also reviewed the course and sees no negative effects on any of their courses.

7. Effects on Regional Campuses: -
8. Staffing (see Note P): Phoebe Godfrey / Richard Rockwell
9. Dates approved by (see Note Q):
 - Department Curriculum Committee: 11-13-13
 - Department Faculty: 11-04-13
10. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person:
Dr. Phoebe Godfrey 860-486-9398, phoebe.godfrey@uconn.edu