



1/6/16

Dear Curriculum Committee:

Please find the enclosed proposal to revise the existing curriculum for the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Demography (GISD). The GISD's inaugural cohort enrolled this past Fall (2015). Having the first cohort move through the existing program made clear where some changes needed to be made. We are proposing two changes to the existing curriculum that we would like to have implemented by next Fall (2016) when our second cohort begins the program.

The two changes are with respect to the two required core courses. Currently, students enrolled in the GISD are required to take a 1-credit hour proseminar course (SOCIO 7884.09 Seminar in Research Methods) and a 3-credit hour methods course (SOCIO 7884.13 Seminar: Population/Demography). We are proposing to replace SOCIO 7884.09 with a newly proposed 3 credit hour course (SOCIO 8802 Proseminar for the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Demography) and to replace SOCIO 7884.09 with a newly proposed 3 credit hour course (SOCIO 7753 Introduction to Demographic Analysis). Both proposed courses have been submitted for review and will be taken up at the next SBS panel meeting January 10th, 2016.

We are requesting these changes in order to formalize the core courses required for the GISD (currently they are made up of two seminar course numbers and titles offered in Sociology). We are not proposing to change the substantive content of either course. By replacing these seminar course titles with the newly proposed courses (SOCIO 8802 and SOCIO 7753) we are making the course offering information more in-line with their content. The new courses ("Proseminar for the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Demography" and "Introduction to Demographic Analysis") will be permanent features of the curriculum and we anticipate that enrollment in the GISD will provide a consistent demand for both classes. We are also requesting that the number of credit hours for the core proseminar course (SOCIO 8802) be expanded to 3 so that the course can meet for three hours each week (instead of two which is how many hours it met for during the Fall 2015 semester) and we can increase the depth of the material covered accordingly. Besides expanding on the material covered in the proseminar course, however, no other substantive changes will be made to the content of the two core courses.


Beyond the changes to the course titles and credit hours (for SOCIO 8802) no other aspects of the GISD are changing as a consequence of these proposed changes. There are

four students who have already taken the two older courses that we are proposing to replace (SOCIOL 7884.09 and SOCIOL 7884.13). Because the core course content covered is essentially the same, I ask that they be grandfathered in and that their prior enrollment in SOCIOL 7884.09 and SOCIOL 7884.13 count as enrollment in the two new courses (SOCIOL 8802 and SOCIOL 7753).

We continue to be very excited about the GISD and believe that these proposed changes strengthen the curriculum and will help formalize the program for future cohorts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



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