Eastern Illinois University
New Course Proposal
SOC 4555, Honors Research

Please check one:  X□ New course  □ Revised course

PART I: CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Course prefix and number: SOC 4555
2. Title: Honors Research
3. Long title:
4. Class hours per week, lab hours per week, and credit: (Arr.-Arr. 3)
5. Term(s) to be offered: On demand
6. Initial term of offering: Fall, 2007
7. Course description: In consultation with a faculty supervisor, the student designs, executes, and writes the results of an original piece of research using primary data. Any research methodology may be employed. The student must submit a detailed study proposal to be approved by the faculty supervisor and the Departmental Honors Coordinator prior to registration. The product may be applied to SOC 4644, Honors Thesis.

8. Registration restrictions:
   a. Identify any equivalent courses: None.
   b. Prerequisite(s): Admission to Departmental Honors Program, permission of Departmental Honors Coordinator, completion of SOC 4444, one of the honors core courses (SOC 3920 or SOC 3291 or SOC 3292), one of the non-honors core courses (SOC 3250 or SOC 3610 or SOC 3620), and completion of a total minimum of 18 hours of sociology.
   c. Who can waive the prerequisite(s)?
      No one
   e. Repeat status: Course may not be repeated.
   f. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class to which registration in the course is restricted, if any: Sociology major
   g. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class to be excluded from the course, if any: non-Sociology majors.

9. Special course attributes: Honors; writing intensive
10. Grading methods: Standard letter
11. Instructional delivery method: independent study or research
PART TWO: ASSURANCE OF STUDENT LEARNING

1. List the student learning objectives of this course:
   1) Identify and design a research methodology appropriate to answering the stated thesis/research problem, and any accompanying hypotheses.
   2) Execute the research design, collecting primary data, and in full compliance with IRB requirements.
   3) Analyze and evaluate their primary data.
   4) Determine the significance of their research.

   a. This is not a general education course.

   b. This is not a graduate-level course.

2. Identify the assignments/activities the instructor will use to determine how well students attained the learning objectives:
   • Comprehensive bibliographies relevant to their topics of inquiry (objective 1).
   • Write a methodology of their research in the tradition of scientific inquiry (objective 1, 2).
   • Write a report of the findings of their research in the tradition of scientific inquiry, including appropriate tables, graphs, and statistical tests (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4).

3. Explain how the instructor will determine students’ grades for the course:
   • Comprehensive bibliography  20%
   • Methodological section    30%
   • Findings section     50%

4. The course is not technology-delivered

5. The course is not for graduate credit.

6. The course is writing-intensive. Specifically, the experience will require several writing activities, including bibliographies relevant to their methodology and research problem, a methods section or chapter and a write-up of their research results/analysis. Opportunity to rewrite any component is unlimited.

PART III: OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

As honors research, similar to independent studies, course outline and content will vary with topic, student, and faculty supervisor.

PART IV: PURPOSE AND NEED

1. Explain the department’s rationale for developing and proposing the course: The course is an appropriate and traditional offering among departmental honors programs, and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology is in the process of proposing a departmental honors program. Honors research fundamentally contributes to the ultimate production of an honors thesis.
a. This is not a general education course.
b. The course is not technology delivered.

2. Justify the level of the course and any course prerequisites, co-requisites, or registration restrictions. The course level is consistent with other honors research courses in other social science honors programs and with the expected sophistication of the students. The course prerequisites are necessary to ensure the sociological background and sophistication to execute the research required.

3. SOC 4555 does not substantially duplicate any existing course.
   a. No courses will be deleted. This course will be required in the departmental honors program.

4. Impact on Program(s):
   a. SOC 4555 is required for departmental honors students and will be accepted as elective hours toward their major in sociology.

PART V: IMPLEMENTATION

1. Faculty member(s) to whom the course may be assigned: Any tenured/tenure-track faculty with substantive expertise to accommodate student research interest.

2. Additional costs to students: none

3. Text and supplementary materials to be used (Include publication dates): no text-supplementary materials assigned.
PART VI: COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER

A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

PART VII: APPROVALS

Date approved by the Sociology/Anthropology Department ___2-23-2006_____________________

Date approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee _1-12-2007____________________

Date approved by the Honors Council (if this is an honors course) __1-22-2007_________________

Date approved by CAA:  2/8/07
