

## GE CRITERIA APPROVAL FORM

*Course Number and Title: Sociology 201, Social Problems in a Service Learning Context*

*Faculty member(s) proposing Course: Scott Frisch, Harley Baker, Renny Christopher*

**Indicate which of the following GE would be satisfied by this course by marking an “X” on the appropriate lines.** Courses may be placed in up to *two* GE categories as appropriate. Upper Division Interdisciplinary GE courses (UDIGE) may be placed in two GE categories in addition to the UDIGE category.

<b>GE Category</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1: Oral Communication
<input type="checkbox"/>	A2: English Writing
<input type="checkbox"/>	A3: Critical Thinking
<input type="checkbox"/>	B1: Physical Sciences—Chemistry, Physics, Geology, and Earth Sciences
<input type="checkbox"/>	B2: Life Sciences—Biology
<input type="checkbox"/>	B3 Mathematics—Mathematics and Applications
<input type="checkbox"/>	B4 Computers and Information Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	C1 Art
<input type="checkbox"/>	C2: Literature
<input type="checkbox"/>	C3a: Language
<input type="checkbox"/>	C3b: Multicultural
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D: Social Perspectives
<input type="checkbox"/>	E: Human Physiological and Psychological Perspectives
<input type="checkbox"/>	Upper Division Interdisciplinary GE
Lab Included?    Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide a brief explanation of how the proposed course meets *each* of the criteria for the selected GE categories.

- 1) Promote understanding of how the issues relevant to social, political, contemporary/historical, economic, educational or psychological realities interact with each other within the realm of human experience.

Social Problems is an ideal course to illustrate the interaction of the social sciences through examination of the major issues that plague society today. While the course will emphasize the social causes (rather than the individual causes) of a variety of problems, students will gain insight on how social explanations differ from psychological explanations. In addition, the course will explore: how social problems are addressed (or ignored) by the political and policy making processes, the historic development and (typically) expansion of social problems over time, as well as the economic consequences of social problems.

2) Focus on how a social science discipline conceives and studies human experience.

Students will be exposed to the ways that sociology as a discipline explains the causes and consequences of various problems. This course explores the major social problems that confront contemporary society, such as homelessness, poverty, and racism. A complete understanding of human experience is impossible without study of the problems that afflict society. In the United States today, there is frequently a tendency to blame the victim of a problem, instead of searching for a societal explanation. Students in Social Problems will be encouraged to think critically about societal ills.

3) Address issues using methods commonly employed by a social science discipline.

This course will introduce students to the methodologies of sociology as well as other social sciences that influence the thinking and research of sociology. Students will read and discuss works from sociologists from qualitative as well as quantitative orientations. In addition, the class will emphasize experiential ways of knowing through a required service learning component. Through performing service for a community partner and reflecting upon their community based assignment, students will gain knowledge through participant observation, a method frequently used by social scientists.