

FS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2 – FEBRUARY 10, 2011
CORE CURRICULUM -- SOCIOLOGY 2023

The following was the report given to Faculty Senate on December 9, 2010:

SOC 2023 – DRUGS IN SOCIETY

This proposal was suggested for inclusion in Domain V (Social and Behavioral Sciences) and Sub-domain (Social and Behavioral Science). The intent of Domain V (2010-2012 UTSA catalog) is:

Students must demonstrate critical understanding of the political and economic dimensions of social life; knowledge of U.S. history sufficient for understanding current developments in American society within a historical context; substantial knowledge of social, racial, cultural, and gender diversity in the United States and Texas; and knowledge of the history, theory, methods, and intellectual approaches of the social and behavioral sciences, including similarities and differences with respect to one another and to other modes of understanding.

Courses in this domain must satisfy the following knowledge and skills: (a) evaluating information and applying it to problem-solving and research and (b) understanding the implications of cultural differences and global issues.

After the Committee reviewed and discussed this proposal, it believed that the course met the intent of the domain. However, the committee expressed concern about including another course in the Core Curriculum that addressed drugs and social issues. Currently, BIO 1033 (Drugs and Society) is included in the Core Curriculum. Some members felt that there was considerable overlap between the two courses (BIO 1033 and SOC 2023), and others felt that the BIO 1033 might be too narrow in focus. A motion was made and seconded to include SOC 2023 in the Core Curriculum. The vote was split (six for including SOC 2023 in the Core Curriculum and six against including it in the Core).

Since the original vote was split, the FS Curriculum Committee asked for additional information from the Biology and Sociology departments. The proposal for adding SOC 2023 to the Core Curriculum was discussed at a meeting with Dr. Raquel Marquez, Chair of the Department of Sociology, and Dr. Edwin Barea-Rodriguez, Chair of the Department of Biology. The syllabi for SOC 2023 [Drugs in Society] and BIO 1033 [Drugs and Society], the title of the courses, as well as other information regarding the purpose and content of the courses were reviewed. While the SOC 2023 course focuses on the societal aspects of drugs, it was noted that BIO 1033 [Drugs and Society] covers both societal and biological topics. Since SOC 2023 would be in Domain V [Social and Behavioral Sciences], and BIO 1033 is in Domain VI [World Society and Issues], it was agreed that both courses could provide learning opportunities for students. However, the Sociology Department agreed to change the title of the SOC course to “Social Contexts of Drug Use” [syllabus attached] to help distinguish between the two courses.

Following additional discussion regarding the overlap between the courses, a majority of the FS Curriculum Committee members voted to include SOC 2023 in the Core Curriculum. The vote tally: 14 voted to include, 1 voted to exclude, and 1 abstained.

Resolved that SOC 2023 be included in Domain V of the Core Curriculum.