



UNC  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

CAMPUS BOX 3210  
155 HAMILTON HALL  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3210

T 919.962.1007  
F 919.962.7568  
<http://sociology.unc.edu>

October 10, 2014

Professor James Thompson  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curricula  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Dear Dean Thompson,

I am writing you to request approval for a small change to the requirements for the Sociology major. Students in the Sociology major are required to complete three Sociology classes at the 400 level or above. Students who complete an honors thesis in Sociology may also use Sociology 691H (Senior Honors Research and Seminar) to meet this requirement. We would like to make use of Sociology 691H as a 400 level or above course be contingent on approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the specific student.

The rationale for this decision is as follows. With approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students may also substitute Sociology 290 (Special Topics in Sociology), Sociology 396 (Independent Study and Reading) and Sociology 692H (Senior Honors Research and Seminar) as 400 level courses. We would like to formally limit students to using only one of the aforementioned courses (290, 396, 691H, 692H) to complete the requirement of three courses at the 400 level or above. Students may count more than one of these courses toward the Sociology major, but only one should be allowed to substitute for one of the three 400 level courses. This has been informal Sociology department policy for many years. However, actual decisions have been made on a case by case basis. We would like to make this policy official and to explicitly state it for students.

Requiring approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies to use Sociology 691H as a 400 level or above course would effectively allow us to limit students to using only one of 290, 396 691H or 692H as a 400 level course. Below is the current language in the Undergraduate Bulletin and the proposed new language. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Current Language in the Undergraduate Bulletin:

- Three SOCI electives numbered above 400 (upper-level). SOCI 691H may count as one of the upper-level courses, and SOCI 396 may count as an upper-level course by permission of the director of undergraduate studies. SOCI 290 may be accepted as a substitute for one of the 400-level courses with permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

Proposed New Language:

- Three SOCI electives numbered above 400 (upper-level). With permission of the director of undergraduate studies, one of the following courses may be used as a 400 level elective: SOCI 290, SOCI 396, SOCI 691H, SOCI 692H.

We do not consider this a curriculum change, as we've been doing this for some time. We just want to formalize it so that students know, *a priori*, our policy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and let me know if I can provide any further clarification or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa D. Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Pearce  
Associated Professor and Associate Chair of Sociology  
ldpearce@unc.edu