

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND ROUTING FORM**

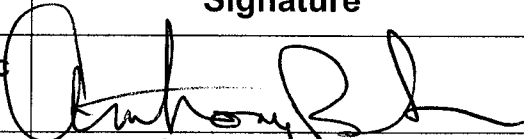
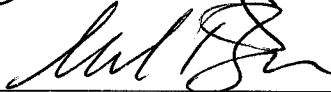
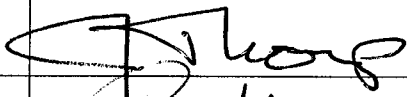
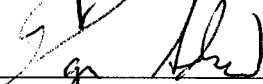

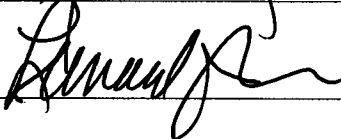
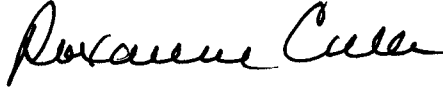
**Proposal Title:** New Course: SOCY 411 Applied Community Research

**Initiating Unit or Individual:** Anthony Baker

**Contact Person's Name:** John Thorp e-mail: thorpi@ferris.edu phone: x-2760

**Date or Semester of Proposal Implementation:** 06F

- Group I - A – New degree/major or major, or redirection of a current offering
- Group I - B – New minors or concentrations
- Group II - A – Minor curriculum clean-up and course changes
- Group II - B – New Course
- Group III - Certificates
- Group IV – Off-Campus Programs

Group/Individual	Signature	Date	Vote/Action *
Program or Academic Unit Faculty		2/17/06	4 Support 0 Support with Concerns 0 Not Support
Department Faculty		2/21/06	16 Support 0 Support with Concerns 0 Not Support
Department Head		2/23/06	✓ Support ___ Support with Concerns ___ Not Support
College Curriculum Committee		2/26/06	6 Support 0 Support with Concerns 0 Not Support
Dean		4/28/06	✓ Support ___ Support with Concerns ___ Not Support
University Curriculum Committee		9/25/06	✓ Support ___ Support with Concerns ___ Not Support
Senate			___ Support ___ Support with Concerns ___ Not Support
Academic Affairs		12-13-06	0 Support ___ Support with Concerns ___ Not Support

\*Support with Concerns or Not Support must include a list of concerns.

\*\*Vote counts are to be shown for faculty group actions. "X" for administrative actions.

**To be completed by Academic Affairs**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 President (Date Approved)  
 Approved)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Board of Trustees (Date Approved) President's Council (Date

## **1. Proposal Summary**

The application of social science research methods outside of the classroom is fundamental to development as social scientists, yet this rarely occurs in an undergraduate sociology program. This course provides students with a "lab" type research course: the laboratory of course will be the community. The research endeavor, findings, and final product will be done in shared partnership with community based organizations in West Michigan. The course builds on prior methods courses with the goal of a professional product that utilizes the latest technology in social science research. This course also provides an important link to the community in partnership with the Community Studies Institute and the American Democracy Project.

The course is designed to approximate a professional research institute. Each student is a "research fellow" and is expected to contribute to the output of the course as "colleagues". The instructor will act as a research supervisor.

This course is unique to most sociology programs. It is open to both sociology majors and majors in other programs which have a social science research course as part of their program. It is required of students in the community studies concentration of the sociology major. This course occurs in partnership with a local community based agency and allows students to work as "research fellows" in a professional research setting.

## **2. Summary of All Course Action Required\***

**a. Newly Created Courses to FSU:**

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>SOCY</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>Applied Community Research</b>

**b. Courses to be Deleted From FSU Catalog:**

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
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**c. Existing Course(s) to be Modified:**

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
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**d. Addition of existing FSU courses to program**

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
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**e. Removal of existing FSU courses from program**

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
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\*Contact Senate Secretary or UCC Chair if spaces for additional courses are needed.

## NEW COURSE INFORMATION FORM

**Course Identification: SOCY 411 – Applied Community Research****Course Description:**

This is a service-learning course. Students conduct research under the supervision of one or two professors for the purpose of providing needed research knowledge in the local communities. A final research report or presentation is produced in partnership with a community based organization in West Michigan. The course builds on students' prior research methods courses so that produce professional research on an issue of interest to the community partner. Students are recruited from a variety of academic fields in the social science department including political science, anthropology, social work, psychology and sociology for the purpose of generating a research group with multiple preparations for social inquiry. The course has had at its core the primary benefit of allowing students to do social research in a hands on fashion which introduces to students the challenges of real world research, unavailable in usual methods preparation courses. It has an added benefit of a multi-disciplinary course for understanding innovative methods of inquiry from a variety of academic backgrounds.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To model the working environment of social scientists
2. To use social science methods in partnership with a community agency
3. To explore multiple technologies and methods in producing social knowledge
4. To apply a general understanding of analysis and methods of the social sciences to a specific community need or issue
5. To produce a professional and scholarly product to the client's satisfaction
6. To develop a critical analysis of the role social sciences can play in the society
7. To critically analyze current methods of inquiry

The course is designed as the objectives above illustrate to approximate a professional research institute. Each student is a "research fellow" and is expected to contribute to the output of the course as "colleagues". The instructor will act as a research supervisor.

**Course Outline:**

<b>Phase 1:</b>	<b>Client Introduction and The Research Question</b>
Week 1	Meet with client/community representative
Week 2	Review clients needs and develop the appropriate research question
Week 3.	Operationalize and Conceptualize project terminology and research design
<b>Phase 2:</b>	<b>Research Design and Creation of Research Instruments</b>
Weeks 4-7	Review relevant research methodology
	Consider data gathering needs, Could include:
	GIS data needs, survey construction, identifying relevant interviewees, creation of questionnaires, etc.
	Create necessary Literature Review
<b>Phase 3:</b>	<b>Research Activities and Presentation</b>
Weeks 7-12	Conduct research activities, Meet weekly to discuss findings and challenges
Weeks 13-14	Discuss and prepare presentation of Research findings
Week 15	Formally Present Research Findings, Discuss with Client Future needs.

**CREATE A NEW COURSE**  
**Course Date Entry Form**

**FORM F**

**Create Course**  
**rev. 9/23/02**

**I. ACTION TO BE TAKEN: CREATE A NEW COURSE**

Note: If this course is to be used as a prerequisite for other university courses, Form Fs that reflect the prerequisite change must be submitted for those courses as well.

Term Effective: Semester  Year  See instructions.

**II. PROPOSED FOR NEW COURSE:** Complete all sections of this part through Prerequisites. See instructions in manual for further clarification.

Course Prefix  Number  Enter Contact Hours per week in boxes.  
**SOCY** **411** LECTure  LAB  INDEpendent Study – Check (x)   
Practicum:  Seminar:

Full Course Title: **Applied Community Research**  
Abbreviated Course Title: **Applied Community Research**  
(Abbreviate only if necessary. Use Arabic numerals. Limit to 26 characters and spaces.)  
Semester(s) Offered: **W** (See instructions for listing.) Max. Section Enrollment : **20**

Credit Hours: Check (x) type and enter maximum and minimum hours in boxes.

Type:  Variable  Fixed Maximum Credit Hours  Minimum Credit Hours

Grade Method: Check (x)  Normal Grading  Credit/No Credit only (Pass/Fail)

May Be Repeated for Added Credit: Check (x)  Yes  No

Levels: Check (x)  Undergraduate  Graduate  Professional


Does proposed new course replace an equivalent course? Check (x)  Yes  No  
Equivalent course: Prefix  Number  See instructions on Replacement courses.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION** – Limit to 75 words – PLEASE BE CONCISE.

This is a service-learning course. Students conduct research and produce a final research report for and in partnership with a community based organization in West Michigan. The course builds on students' prior research methods courses so that produce professional research on an issue of interest to the community partner. Students use the latest technology in social science research.

**Prerequisites:** (if no prerequisites, write "None") Limited to 60 spaces. **SOCY 121, SOCY 271 or other soc. sci. methods crse, or Inst. perm.**

UCC Chair Signature/Date:

 9/25/06

Academic Affairs Approval Signature/Date:

 12/13/05

To be completed by Academic Affairs Office: - Standard & Measures Coding and General Education Code

Basic Skill (BS)  General Education (GE)  Occupational Education (OC)  G.E. Codes

**Office of the Registrar use ONLY**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Entered: SIS [125 \_\_, 1D4 \_\_]