

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1165**

**TITLE: A Resolution Acknowledging the Importance of Sociology as a General Education Core Requirement**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson**

**SPONSOR(S):**

**WHEREAS**, sociology is defined as “the study of human social relationships and institutions,” “the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behavior of organized groups of human beings,” the study of “family, gender, race and ethnic relations, aging, education, work, population, and many others” with a “principle goal... to understand the workings of human society and to explain social behavior,” & “the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior” [1][2][3][4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the commonality as defined previously is that the field of sociology studies the collective structures of society & their impact on mankind both as a whole as well as from the perspective of affecting distinct individuals within those systemic institutions; and,

**WHEREAS**, the analysis of systemic factors and their impact on marginalized groups is a core aspect of sociology that studies how diverse perspectives have accumulated & been preserved despite institutions in place that have been strategically designed to silence minority voices & disenfranchise individuals on the basis of race, social status, gender identity, sexual orientation, & age [5][6][7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, understanding both the causes & consequences of mankind is essential in the pursuit of creating a more equitable & cohesive society at the foundational level [8][9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, with the benefits of the study of sociology in mind, the Florida Board of Governors has decided to remove sociology as a core, general education requirement among the other action to “prohibit diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) spending at the state’s public universities and colleges” [10][11][12][13]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State University System of Florida Board of Governors explicitly stated that the committee aims to have “every undergraduate student should graduate as an informed citizen through participating in rigorous general education courses that promote and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional, historically accurate, and high-quality coursework” when citing the decision to “remove SYG X001 Principles of Sociology from the general education core course options” [13]; and,

**WHEREAS**, described as a progression from “a scientific study of social reality into academic advocacy,” sociology is beyond just a field of study, but it also is a tool used by scholars & activists who seek to understand the intricate history of society & its consequences [14]; and,

**WHEREAS**, sociology being a general education core requirement aids in the advancement of the University of Florida’s prestige by challenging students to think critically about history in terms of a continued timeline as well as under the scope of an individual event; and,

**WHEREAS**, students are taught “to organize their thinking so that they can ask better questions and formulate better answers” & “to try to see the world from other people’s perspectives,” demonstrating that the study of sociology prompts better argumentative skills & enables them to better understand the diverse perspectives around them [15]; and,

**WHEREAS**, sociology focuses particularly on social inequity & provides a framework for the further understanding of the nuanced history that marginalized groups have faced & the lack of effective research in regard to potential methods on overcoming these systemic barriers [16]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the necessity of sociology as a general education core requirement is supported by the fostering of diverse perspectives & critical analysis of discriminative social institutions against underrepresented individuals, the promotion of social activism & advocacy, & the further understanding of previous societal consequences & how to best avoid repeating them in the future [1][2][3][4][6][14][16]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes how the study of sociology fosters a broader perspective for undergraduate students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the study of sociology as a general education core requirement for undergraduate students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the further teaching of sociology in order to promote the sentiment that “every undergraduate student should graduate as an informed citizen through participating in rigorous general education courses that promote and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional, historically accurate, and high-quality coursework” [13]; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges that the analysis of structurally discriminatory institutions targeted towards silencing minority groups is a core educational benefit of sociology; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the severe implications of removing sociology as a general education core requirement for undergraduate students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the preservation of diversity, equity, & inclusion initiatives & their funding at the University of Florida; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate condemns the State University System of Florida Board of Governors’ tactical decision to neglect the importance of sociology & its comprehensive analysis of the history of systemic racism & discrimination towards marginalized communities.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President Ben Sasse, University of Florida Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Interim Provost, & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs J. Scott Angle, Vice President for Student Life Heather White, University of Florida Student Body President Olivia Green, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean David E. Richardson, University of Florida Student Sociology & Criminology & Law Chair Stephen Perz, Sociology & Criminology & Law Associate Chair Jodi Lane, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Associate Deans Bianca Evans-Donaldson, Margaret Fields, Brian Harpe, Chris McCarty, Trysh Travis, & Mary Watt, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Interim Associate Dean Kevin Ingersent, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Associate Dean for Student Affairs Gillian Lord, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Faculty Senators Luiss Alvarez-Castro, Angela Bacsik, Andrea Caloiaro, Konstantina*

*Christodoulopoulou, Madeleine Coy, James Garner, Crystal Marull, Matt Smith, Gene Witmer, Imre Bartos, James Essegbey, Ifigeneia Giannadaki, Selman Hershfield, Flora Iff-Noel, Valeria Kleiman, Esther Romeyn, Imanol Suarez-Palma, Anastasia Ulanowicz, Stefanie Wulff, Alex York, Ben Smith, Hannah Vander Zanden, Eleni Bozia, Eleonora Rossi, & Ying Xiao, Interim Director of the Center for Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement Elle Collins, Program Director of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Student Engagement Flora Wang, Program Director of Black Student Engagement Satcha Sanon, Program Director of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Student Engagement Jamir Wright, Program Director of Hispanic-Latinx Student Engagement Nathalie Turenne, the State University System of Florida Board of Governors Chair Brian Lamb, the State University System of Florida Board of Governor Vice-Chair Alan Levine, the State University System of Florida Board of Governors Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr., the State University System of Florida Board of Governors Members Ashley Bell Barnett, Timothy M. Cerio, Aubrey Edge, Patricia Frost, Edward Haddock, Jack Hitchcock, Ken Jones, Darlene Luccio Jordan, Charles H. Lydecker, Craig Mateer, Jose Oliva, Amanda J. Phalin, Eric Silagy, & Florida State Governor Ron DeSantis.*

[1] <https://sociology.unc.edu/undergraduate-program/sociology-major/what-is-sociology/>

[2] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sociology>

[3]

<https://www.umass.edu/sociology/undergraduate/prospective#:~:text=The%20field%20of%20sociology%20studies,and%20to%20explain%20social%20behavior.>

[4] <https://www.asanet.org/about/what-is-sociology/>

[5] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK593028/>

[6] <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/systematic-inequality-american-democracy/>

[7] <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.01394>

[8] <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.29.010202.100057>

[9] <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/j.2161-1939.2014.00054.x>

[10] <https://www.wptv.com/news/education/florida-removes-sociology-from-core-courses-bans-dei-funding-at-colleges-and-universities>

[11] <https://www.wptv.com/news/education/florida-board-bans-use-of-state-federal-dollars-for-dei-programs-at-state-universities>

