

Will McConnell

From: Evonne Rezler
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 3:44 PM
To: Will McConnell
Cc: Gina Jones; Demarus Youngblood; Ann Branaman; Valery Forbes
Subject: RE: SYO 3401 Sociology elective

Categories: FAU Sociology Dept

Dear Dr. McConnell,

Thank you for sharing the proposed course description and for the update on the development of SYO 3401: Sociology for Health & Medical Professions.

The College of Science is pleased to support this course as it moves through the approval process. The focus on social determinants of health, health disparities, and the application of sociological concepts to clinical contexts aligns well with the preparation needs of our pre-health students. In particular, the course content complements material evaluated on the MCAT and DAT and strengthens students' understanding of factors that shape patient outcomes and healthcare delivery.

Pre-Health and College of Science Advising teams will be recommending this course to appropriate students, as it aligns well with existing pre-health pathways and supports students preparing for health and medical professional programs.

Best Regards,

Evonne M. Rezler, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
Science Lead, FAU STEM Research Group for Digital Laboratory Learning
<https://www.fau.edu/elearning/research/digital-laboratory-learning/>
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From: Will McConnell <wmccconnell@fau.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 3:37 PM
To: Evonne Rezler <erezler@fau.edu>
Cc: Gina Jones <fourreau@fau.edu>; Demarus Youngblood <djohnson@fau.edu>; Ann Branaman <branaman@fau.edu>
Subject: SYO 3401 Sociology elective

Dear Dean Rezler,

As you know, the Sociology Department is developing a new elective course SYO 3401 Sociology for Health & Medical Professions to be offered starting Spring 2027. A proposed course description is below. Would you please reply to this email to confirm your support for the course for documentation during the approvals process?

SYO 3401 Sociology for Health & Medical Professions

This course explores how social structures, culture, and inequality shape health, illness, and healthcare systems. It is designed for pre-health students preparing for clinical careers who need a strong foundation in how social factors influence patient outcomes and healthcare delivery. Students develop skills in interpreting social data, analyzing health disparities, and applying sociological reasoning to real-world clinical scenarios and standardized exam-style problems.

Thank you,
Will

--

William R. McConnell, PhD

Associate Professor of Sociology

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Will McConnell

From: Meredith Ellis
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 12:20 PM
To: Will McConnell
Subject: Re: New Sociology health course

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: FAU Sociology Dept

Hi Will,

Our medical anthropologist looked over this and while there is some pretty significant overlap, she doesn't want to raise any objections. So you have our approval!

Thanks so much.

Best
Meredith

Meredith A.B. Ellis, PhD
Chair, Anthropology Department
Associate Professor of Anthropology
Faculty Affiliate, Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Initiative
Faculty Affiliate, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
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[The Children of Spring Street: The Bioarchaeology of Childhood in a 19th Century Abolitionist Congregation, Springer Press 2019.](#)

[Nineteenth Century Childhoods in Interdisciplinary and International Perspectives, coedited with Jane Eva Baxter, Oxbow Books 2018.](#)

<http://springstreetarchaeology.syr.edu/>

From: Will McConnell <wmccconnell@fau.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Meredith Ellis <ellism@fau.edu>
Subject: RE: New Sociology health course

From: Will McConnell <wmccconnell@fau.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Meredith Ellis <ellism@fau.edu>
Subject: New Sociology health course

Hey Meredith,

We had a request in CUPC to have Anthro take a look at our new Pre-Health course (because Anthro has a health systems course). Would you mind reviewing and letting us know if you have any questions/requested changes?

Thank you,
Will

--

William R. McConnell, PhD
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