DATE: March 23, 2014.

REVIEWER: Candido Cabo

COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: SBS 2000 Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences

CREDIT HOURS: 3

PREREQUISITES: 3

COURSE IS: ☑ Existing   ☐ New   ☐ In development

PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION: ☑ College Option   ☑ elective   ☐ Capstone   ☑ other:
To be included in the Scientific World category.

DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN: Social Sciences

PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other): Guest Lecturers (25%).

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION (if co-taught):   NA

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course will provide students an overview of commonly observed perspectives and methodologies used to conduct research across a variety of disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences (anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, and sociology). Students will participate in traditional research design, data collection, analysis/interpretation of results, and final reporting of results to answer questions derived by an interdisciplinary understanding of scientific methodology from both a social and a behavioral science perspective. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and skills by taking part in a semester-end group poster presentation of their work that will be reviewed by members of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department.

DESCRIBE & EVALUATE HOW COURSE MEETS INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITERIA?
This course integrates methodologies and perspectives from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences to research complex problems that span across those different disciplines. For example, the design of the research approach to investigate a given problem may depend on the current understanding of the problem, i.e. the theories that explain the different factors relevant to a given problem, and those theories depend on disciplinary perspectives. By integrating different perspectives from different social science disciplines, students will be able to design integrative and interdisciplinary research approaches to investigate complex problems.

DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?
The course will use guest lecturers (approximately 25% of the course) from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. That is larger than the minimum requirement established by the Interdisciplinary Committee. The only question, which applies also to other interdisciplinary courses with a "guest lecturer" structure, is how scalable this model is. Will the topics given by the guest lecturers change depending on who is the guest?

DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?
Yes. All components of this course are in the area of social science, which is an area considered by the State of New York as belonging to liberal arts and sciences.

STRENGTHS: This is an interdisciplinary course on research methods for the social and behavioral sciences. Students will draw on different perspectives and methodologies, presented by lecturers in different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences, to complete and present a research project.

WEAKNESSES: None.