1. **Type of change:** New Course

2. **Course Title and Description:** SOC 328 Gender & Society in Middle East & North Africa (MENA), 3 hours, 3 credits. Norms, values and institutions that shape gender relations in different MENA societies.

3. **Rationale:** The roles of women and men in Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) societies have been contested both within these societies and also by outsiders, who have frequently misunderstood and stereotyped them. This course explores the complex and multi-layered processes of gender relations and dimensions, including cultural norms, values and the role of institutions that have shaped and continue to shape women’s experiences in different MENA societies. It will be taught as an upper level interdisciplinary course with an emphasis on the Sociological aspect of women and men’s social status in the MENA region. It adds to the curricular offerings of Sociology because it is the only course in Sociology that focuses on Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) societies.

4. **Academic Objectives:** By the end of the course students will be expected to:
   - Demonstrate an understanding of the connection between Orientalism and historical prejudices
   - Describe women’s social status and its indicators in MENA
   - Demonstrate an understanding of the process of gendering in MENA
   - Identify the core of patriarchy (historically and presently) and its effect on women’s status in MENA
   - Analyze the continuous debate on Hejab in the MENA region and the Western world
   - Identify recent demographic changes in MENA and its dramatic effect on women and men’s lives
   - Analyze the effects of globalization, oil wealth, labor migration on men and women’s status in MENA
   - Demonstrate an understanding of international sources of demographic data and be able to access and analyze data from The World Bank, Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census IDB, International Labor Office
   - Analyze contemporary political and social issues and debates as they relate to the MENA region

5. **Date of Sociology Department Approval:** 10 March 2010
1. Type of change: Experimental Course

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4: Academic Objectives: By the end of the course students will be expected to:
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