APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College: Arts & Sciences **Department:** Philosophy and Religion

Contact Person: Manuel Rodeiro **Mail Stop:** 9577 **E-mail:** mr2482@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** 10/17/24

Current Degree (BS, MS, etc.): Minor in Environmental Justice

Current Major: _____

Current Concentration(s): _____

Current Campus(es): ☑ Starkville ☐ Meridian ☐ Distance ☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering only

New Degree (BS, MS, etc.): No change

Effective Date:

Semester	Year
Fall	2025

**Any new program or modification desiring a starting semester other than fall must include a justification

Proposed Major: _____

Proposed Concentration(s): _____

Proposed Campus(es)

☑ Starkville
☐ Meridian
☐ Distance
☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering o

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adding AN/SO 4173 to the Justice Electives options.

Approved:	Date:
Department Head	12/3/2024
Director of Academic Quality	12/10/24
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	1/25/25
Dean of College or School	2/3/24
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

FOR OIRE USE ONLY

- ☐ Substantive Change to SACSCOC
- ☐ Notification to SACSCOC
- ☒ No significant departure

OIRE Representative Initials

PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION OF MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The Minor in Environmental Justice explores the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards. It investigates the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues, as well as provides students with sufficient natural science background to understand and explain human impacts on the natural world. Our course of study aims to give students an interdisciplinary perspective on the environmental and the social in tandem and how to redress environmental harms meaningfully, effectively, and fairly.

Administration:
The program of the Minor in Environmental Justice will be administered by the Department of Philosophy and Religion (PHI). The Environmental Justice Committee consisting of professors with research backgrounds or expertise on Environmental Justice will oversee the program's structure and performance in collaboration with PHI. Other participating departments and programs include Anthropology, History, Political Science, Geography, Biology, and Chemistry.

Admission to the Minor:
The Minor in Environmental Justice is open to all undergraduate students in good standing who are currently enrolled at the university.

2. CURRICULUM OUTLINE

CURRENT Degree Description		PROPOSED Degree Description	
Degree: Minor in Environmental Justice		Degree: Minor in Environmental Justice	
The Minor in Environmental Justice provides students with a minor course of study that explores the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards. *The minor focuses on the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues. As well as provide students with sufficient natural science background to grasp the consequences of human impact on the natural world.* Our course of study aims to give students a unique interdisciplinary perspective that addresses both the environmental and the social in tandem and investigates how to redress environmental harms meaningfully, effectively, and fairly. A grade of C or higher is required in each course. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.		The Minor in Environmental Justice provides students with a minor course of study that explores the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards. **The minor focuses on the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues and provides students with sufficient natural science background to grasp the consequences of human impact on the natural world.** Our course of study aims to give students a unique interdisciplinary perspective that addresses both the environmental and the social in tandem and investigates how to redress environmental harms meaningfully, effectively, and fairly. A grade of C or higher is required in each course. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.	
CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	**PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE**	Required Hours
Required Course: PHI 3313 Environmental Ethics	3	Required Course: PHI 3313 Environmental Ethics	3
Justice Electives: GG 4543 Community Engagement in Environmental Geosciences GR 4133 Political Ecology: Space, Nature,	9	Justice Electives: **AN/SO 4173 Environment and Society** GG 4543 Community Engagement in Environmental Geosciences	9

and Justice HI 3183 World Environmental History HI 4193 U.S. Environmental History PHI 3173 Social and Political Philosophy PS 4743 Environmental Policy		GR 4133 Political Ecology: Space, Nature, and Justice HI 3183 World Environmental History HI 4193 U.S. Environmental History PHI 3173 Social and Political Philosophy PS 4743 Environmental Policy	
Ecological Studies Electives: BIO 3104 Ecology BIO 4233 Living with Global Change BIO 4993 Community Ecology CH 4303 Environmental Chemistry I ENS 2101 Introduction to Environmental Science Laboratory ENS 2103 Introduction to Environmental Science GR 1703 Introduction to Climate and Climate Change GR 3113 Conservation of Natural Resources GR 4813 Natural Hazards and Processes	6	Ecological Studies Electives: BIO 3104 Ecology BIO 4233 Living with Global Change BIO 4993 Community Ecology CH 4303 Environmental Chemistry I ENS 2101 Introduction to Environmental Science Laboratory ENS 2103 Introduction to Environmental Science GR 1703 Introduction to Climate and Climate Change GR 3113 Conservation of Natural Resources GR 4813 Natural Hazards and Processes	6
Total Hours	18	Total Hours	18

3. JUSTIFICATION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Justification
AN/SO 4173 Environment-Society explores the dynamic relationship between human society and the natural environment, emphasizing the social dimensions of environmental issues. This course is particularly beneficial for students pursuing a minor in Environmental Justice, as it provides in-depth perspectives on the causes, impacts, and societal responses to environmental challenges, equipping students with a nuanced understanding of these complex interactions.

Learning outcomes **There are no changes to the learning outcomes as originally proposed.*
Students who satisfy all requirements for the Minor will:

- Learn causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards
- Develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and the methodological approaches of the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities for confronting environmental problems
- Understand and evaluate the local, regional, and global scale of environmental problems
- Reflect on their roles, responsibilities, and identities as citizens, consumers, and environmental actors in our complex and interconnected world
- Develop a broad understanding of the historical and contemporary factors that shape the emergence of Environmental Justice movements around the world
- Examine how and why unfair environmental detriments are authorized and permitted around the world
- Prepare students for work in fields relating to sustainability, environmental planning, environmental law, and environmental policy.

4. SUPPORT
Please see the attached letters of support.

5. PROPOSED 4-LETTER ABBREVIATION
ENVJ

6. EFFECTIVE DATE
Fall 2025

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
ANTHROPOLOGY AND MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES

P.O. Box AR
340 Lee Blvd., Room 204 Cobb Bldg.
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.2013
F. 662.325.8690
www.amec.msstate.edu

February 13, 2024

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures supports the new Environmental Justice Minor in College of Arts and Sciences, proposed by Dr. Manuel Rodeiro. Members of the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the minor in Environmental Justice may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort. If you require further information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

James W. Hardin, PhD
Interim Head/Professor, Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures
Director, Cobb Institute of Archaeology
P.O. Box AR
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Office: (662) 325-3826
Fax: (662)325-8690
e-mail: jwh1@msstate.edu

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Sociology
P.O. Box C
456 Hardy Road/207 Bowen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762
P. 662.325.2495
F. 662.325.4564
www.sociology.msstate.edu

November 1, 2024

Dear University Committee on Courses and Curriculum,

On behalf of the Department of Sociology, please accept this letter of support for including SO 4173: Environment and Society as an elective within the Environmental Justice Minor. We believe that this course's curriculum provides a valuable contribution to students pursuing this minor by deepening their understanding of the intersection between environmental issues and social justice.

During our faculty meeting on Friday, November 1st, the Department of Sociology faculty voted to endorse this addition. We are confident that this change will enrich students' academic experience and will not conflict with other course offerings within our program.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact Dr. Ashley Vancil-Leap, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Department of Sociology, Criminology and Social Work
Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee

Ashley Vancil-Leap (Chair)

Raymond Barranco

Robert Boyd

Dana Dillard

Margaret Ralston

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

P.O. Drawer AS
175 President Circle, 208 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.1665
F. 662.325.8740
www.cas.msstate.edu

November 4, 2024

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Philosophy and Religion supports the adding AN/SO 4173 Environment and Society as an elective to the Environmental Justice Minor in College of Arts and Sciences.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Thompson
Department Head