



February 5, 2024

## Statement on Removal of Sociology as General Education Requirement in Florida

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is concerned with the decision by the board of governors of the Florida State University System to remove “Principles of Sociology” as an option from the public university general education course list. This attempt to delegitimize the inherent value of sociology as a rigorous, evidence-based field of academic study is a short-sighted politicization of higher education and undermines academic freedom. This decision appears to have been made for purely political reasons, rather than the evidence-based standards that should guide curricular decisions. Furthermore, this political interference with the core standards of social science higher education raises concerns about the possible future attempts to delegitimize other social science disciplines. We at APSA believe that the social sciences are essential building blocks of a well-rounded education in the liberal arts and removing social sciences core courses limits students’ ability to obtain a well-rounded education at Florida’s public universities. We echo the sentiment expressed by the [American Sociological Association](#) (ASA): “what a grave error Florida made in removing sociology as a general education core course option at its public colleges and universities.” As fellow stewards of the social sciences and humanities, APSA stands in solidarity with the sociology profession, and we call for the immediate reversal of this decision by the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida.

Handwritten signature of Mark E. Warren in black ink.

Mark E. Warren  
President

Handwritten signature of Taeku Lee in black ink.

Taeku Lee  
President-Elect

Handwritten signature of Lisa Martin in black ink.

Lisa Martin  
Past President

Handwritten signature of Steven Rathgeb Smith in black ink.

Steven Rathgeb Smith  
Executive Director

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*Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 11,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.*