LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF_SOCIOLOGY

CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. **Type of change:** New Course
2.

Department(s)	Sociology
Career	[X] Undergraduate [ ] Graduate
Academic Level	[X] Regular [ ] Compensatory [ ] Developmental [ ] Remedial
Subject Area	Sociology
Course Prefix & Number	SOC 211
Course Title	The Sociology of New York City
Description	Analysis of historical and contemporary New York City through a sociological lens. Exploring the dynamic relationship between NYC's institutions, physical spaces, and diverse communities.
Pre/ Co Requisites	
Credits	3
Hours	3
Liberal Arts	[X] Yes [ ] No
Course Attribute (e.g. Writing Intensive, WAC, etc)	
General Education Component	_X__ Not Applicable ____ Required ____ English Composition ____ Mathematics ____ Science ____ Flexible ____ World Cultures ____ US Experience in its Diversity ____ Creative Expression ____ Individual and Society ____ Scientific World

3. **Rationale:**
Lehman students navigate the complex social landscape of New York City every single

day. However, simply living in the city is different from understanding the underlying structural forces that shape it. This course teaches students how to think about their environment more critically, helping them recognize the patterns of social life through a sociological framework. By examining topics including how NYC neighborhoods develop, the housing market, and problems impacting the city and its people, students will develop a sociological imagination that they can then apply to other social contexts and phenomena. Beyond the academic benefits, the knowledge gained from this course may have direct personal utility by providing students with the tools they need to better navigate local systems.

With its focus on NYC, the course will serve as an engaging entry point into the discipline for students of all majors. By demonstrating how sociology directly explains their own lives and communities, the course naturally acts as a strong recruitment pipeline for the department. Students who enroll out of an interest in New York City will leave with a foundational understanding of the discipline, making the course an effective way to attract and inspire new sociology majors and minors.

4. **Learning Outcomes (By the end of the course students will be expected to):**
1. Use foundational sociological concepts to explain how communities are organized and how they change in New York City.
2. Evaluate how social forces directly shape the physical and social landscapes of New York City.
3. Examine how structural advantages and disadvantages manifest across the five boroughs.
4. Construct clear, critical arguments about historical and contemporary issues in New York City through the analysis of academic readings, NYC-focused news and media, and demographic data.

5. **Date of Departmental Approval:** October 21, 2026