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Reasonable Department of Sociology for Colleges and Universities

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The division of social sciences into departments in universities is largely for pedagogical reasons. It would be possible to put them all under one head with different lines of work, such as economics, sociology, history, politics, ethics, and anthropology; for they have a correlated interest and the courses of study in each could be made to fit a general plan of instruction. But the trend in recent years has been to differentiate these main lines, and to some extent divorce them from the close relationship which their nature and purpose imply.

Sociology, the last of these main divisions to be developed, like the others, has a central idea of its own, yet bears a close relationship to all the others. Yet sociology as a distinct department must be broad enough to include many subjects and lines of work in order to maintain its independence. If it is to be social philosophy only, it could well be placed in the division of philosophy; if it is to be merely social psychology, it could be included in the department of psychology; if merely the history of social and political movements, civil government and history could include it. Even in this case, the central idea of the general forces, laws, and problems of social generalization would be lacking. Assuming that sociology has developed a scientific purpose not possible to obtain under the present organization from the other social sciences, and that it can and ought to maintain a separate pedagogical department, what should be the nature and scope of its subjects? There is a chance for great difference of opinion in the scope of the organized group of studies in the department of sociology. In the University of Kansas the department is trying to work out its position in accordance with the following plan:

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Department of Sociology

- I. Bio-social Group
 - *1. General Anthropology
 - *2. General Ethnology
 3. Social Evolution
 4. Criminal Anthropology
 5. Race Problems
 - *6. Eugenics (graduate)
 - *7. American Ethnology (graduate)
 8. Seminar in Bio-social Research
- II. Pure or General Sociology Group
 - *1. Elements of Sociology
 - *2. Socialization and Social Control
 - *3. Psychological Sociology
 4. Geographical Influence on Society
 - *5. Development of Sociological Theory
 - *6. Seminar of Sociological Research (graduate)
- III. Applied or Specialized Sociology Group
 - *1. Principles of Applied Sociology
 - *2. Rural Sociology
 - *3. Social Pathology
 - *4. Remedial and Corrective Agencies
 - *5. The Family
 - *6. Socialism
 - *7. Contemporary Society of the United States
 - *8. American and European Charities (graduate)
 - *9. Seminar of Social Research (graduate)
- IV. Social Technology and Social Engineering (carried by advanced students and instructors)
 - *1. Preparation for Social Service (graduate)
 - *2. State Work in Connection with the Conference of Charities and Correction
 - *3. State Work in Connection with State Board of Health
 - *4. State Work in Relation to the Board of Control
 - *5. Field Work in Relation to Penal and Reformatory Practice
 - *6. Field Work in Social Surveys of Rural and Urban Communities
 7. Municipal Engineering

*Course already given in the University of Kansas or field work already done.

While the general scheme will be subjected to few changes, some of the details would be greatly modified as the opportunities for development increase. The courses of study marked with a star are the ones which have been given in the University of Kansas, and all other subjects that have been scheduled have been treated to a greater or less extent in a partial manner. When the force of instructors is sufficient, changes will be made in some titles which will permit a closer classification of the subjects.

The whole aim is to ground sociology in general utility and social service. It is a preparation for social efficiency. It is the purpose of the department to emphasize the fourth main division by enlarging state service. In developing its state service the purpose is to reform social conditions and direct social movements by a well-organized system. County, city, township, and rural surveys are being carried on now, and a plan for the survey of the whole state will be undertaken next year. By organizing the whole community to conduct its own survey under the direction of the instructors in the department, a social consciousness is developed and a permanent organization established for efficient work. Such a plan has its own difficulties but it discounts the work of the social revivalist.