

## Social Sciences Breadth Area **DRAFT**

The Social Science breadth area can be fulfilled by successful completion of a course approved by the General Education Program as Social Science or Social Science for Non-Majors.

**The objective of the Social Science breadth area is** to apply knowledge and the methods of inquiry characteristic of the social sciences to explain and evaluate human behavior and institutions.

Course objectives to fulfill a *Social Science breadth area* will include 2 of General Education SLOs: Information Literacy OR Creative Thinking OR Analytical Thinking AND Communication OR Quantitative Literacy.

In addition, Social Sciences breadth area courses will include *at least* the following

1. Apply basic social science concepts, theories, and/or methods to a particular issue to identify factors that influence change.
2. Identify an argument about /interpretation of a social phenomenon and understand alternative explanations.
3. Employ analytic writing and reading skills appropriate to an introductory level in a discipline
4. Describe how individuals and groups influence and are influenced by social contexts, institutions, physical environments and/or global processes.

### Existing Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1:** Students will have a general knowledge of concepts, methods of analysis, and facts concerning society as interpreted by the social sciences.

- *Objective 1:* Students will demonstrate a knowledge of basic theories appropriate to a social science.
- *Objective 2:* Students will correctly answer questions on the accepted facts and principles of a social or behavioral science.
- *Objective 3:* Students will describe some of the dynamics among groups, institutions and individual persons.

**Goal 2:** Students will understand the methods for analysis appropriate to a social science.

- *Objective 1:* Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the uses of empirical data, textual analysis, historical research, cultural analysis, linguistic analysis, or other forms appropriate to a specific social science discipline.
- *Objective 2:* Students will distinguish valid and invalid conclusions and arguments based on the methods appropriate to a social science.
- *Objective 3:* Students will demonstrate that differing interpretations of information are possible and that different and valid conclusions may be reached using the same data.

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**Goal 3:** Students will engage in critical thinking.

- *Objective 1:* Students will identify the differences among facts, theories, assumptions, and models.
- *Objective 2:* Students will apply what they have learned from the discipline to issues outside of the classroom.
- *Objective 3:* Students will describe models in the discipline and explain the basic assumptions and applications of these models.

**Goal 4:** Students will demonstrate analytic writing and reading skills appropriate to an introductory level in a discipline.

- *Objective 1:* Students will read and comprehend professional literature, which may include primary as well as secondary sources, consistent with an introductory learning level.
- *Objective 2:* Students will produce written material consistent with introductory learning levels

**Goal 5:** Students will distinguish among values and beliefs held by individual persons and the cultural, linguistic, technological and institutional forms that both create and reflect these.

- *Objective 1:* Students will use social analysis and relevant theories to articulate the relationships among personal beliefs and values within institutional frameworks.
- *Objective 2:* Students will recognize their own beliefs and values as well as the social values of others and will be able to discuss differences and similarities among diverse cultures.
- *Objective 3:* Students will write critically and reflectively about some of the moral, political, and/or philosophical implications of a social science.
- *Objective 4:* Students will describe how different value systems influence policies and decision making in societies.