

Social Science A: Introductory Social Science Criteria to Determine and Justify Inclusion of Courses

These courses introduce the student to the logic of disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will be provided an overview of theoretical and methodological approaches used by the discipline, and central empirical contributions of that field. Students will use the conceptual tools of the discipline in ways that enhance their understanding of the social world and enable critical analysis. Typically, Introductory Social Science courses will contribute to the following General Education outcomes:

I. Skills:

Students should be able to:

- A. Think critically, reason soundly, and argue effectively, as demonstrated by the ability to:
 1. analyze arguments according to standard criteria
 2. assume and defend a position on a given topic
 3. use systematic processes, including the collection and analysis of evidence, to form and support conclusions
 4. read and analyze complex texts, including the analysis of rhetorical devices and modes of inference

II. Knowledge:

Students should know:

- B. The social, political, economic, and psychological world,
 1. demonstrating a general knowledge of scholarly understanding of the range of social, political, geopolitical, and economic organization
 2. demonstrating a general understanding of human development, behavior, and health
 3. demonstrating a general knowledge of American politics and society, including the experience of significant minority groups
 4. demonstrating a general knowledge of the methods and traditions of analysis in the social sciences

III. Values:

Students should value:

- C. Ethical behavior,
 1. acquiring knowledge and skills necessary for ethical judgment and its application to everyday life
 2. developing the habit of reflecting on their own values and fulfilling their ethical and civic responsibilities