Purpose
To help ensure that GS is a unified, coherent program of study, and to help students understand how each GS course relates to its discipline or perspective, its GS category (i.e. Natural and Social Sciences), and to their general education, the following guidelines apply to all GS courses effective beginning spring 2009 semester.

Policy
1. All GS courses must require students to meet at least some of GS category learning outcomes of the category to which it belongs (see Catalog or http://aaunk.unk.edu/catalogs/current/gs/gsreq.asp).

2. All GS course syllabi must contain the following:
   ▪ This statement of the Purpose of General Studies:
     *The UNK General Studies program helps students acquire knowledge and abilities to: understand the world, make connections across disciplines, and contribute to the solution of contemporary problems.*
   ▪ A List of student learning outcomes for the course (to include GS category objectives)
   ▪ A List of required sources or readings (use of primary sources is encouraged)

3. All GS courses should engage the overall learning outcomes of GS (see Catalog or http://aaunk.unk.edu/catalogs/current/gs/gsobj.asp) by requiring students to:
   ▪ Locate and gather information in the discipline
   ▪ Use critical thinking skills or appropriate practical skills
   ▪ Demonstrate communication skills suitable to the discipline
   ▪ *(where appropriate)* Understand the experiences of historically underrepresented groups

4. Departments should insure that multiple-section courses have common learning outcomes and assessment tools.

5. GS instructors should make explicit the value of the course for the students’ success in subsequent courses and future endeavors.

6. Each syllabus should show how learning will be evaluated, and should detail the standards to be met. Learning should be assessed early on and regularly.

7. Students should complete meaningful work outside of class, and the instructor should evaluate that work.
SAMPLE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

NOTE: this is a sample only and is NOT required to be used

GENERAL STUDIES COURSE [number and title]
Fall 2009

Contact
Instructor: Office location:
Email address: Office hours:
Office phone: Department phone:

Purpose of General Studies
The UNK General Studies program helps students acquire knowledge and abilities to understand the world; to make connections across disciplines; and to solve contemporary problems.

Course Learning Outcomes
GS category learning outcomes – Students will be able to:
1)
2)
Other course specific learning outcomes – Student will be able to:
1)
2)
etc.

Required Sources / Readings
1)
2)
etc.

Evaluation
Semester grade is based on the following:
1)
2)
etc.