
PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES (GS courses must meet at least one program-level outcome)

Students can:

- 1) Evaluate information appropriate to the task;
- 2) Apply principles of critical thinking to demonstrate integrative learning;
- 3) Communicate effectively in spoken form;
- 4) Communicate effectively in written form;
- 5) Analyze cultural issues within a global context.
- 6) Evaluate in context significant concepts relating to democracy.

III. DISTRIBUTION

(Distribution courses must meet learning outcome #1 and a majority of the remaining outcomes in their respective category.)

Social Sciences outcomes

Students can:

- 1) Articulate the relevance of the Social Science course to their general education.
- 2) Describe basic concepts and methods used in a social science discipline.
- 3) Demonstrate how basic concepts and methods from a social science discipline explain individual or group behavior.
- 4) Evaluate the connection between social science research and social or political policy.
- 5) Apply concepts and methods from a social science discipline to social science research.

UNK GENERAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT
Social Science Category

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of their Social Science course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the relevance of the Social Science course to their general education.
2. Describe basic concepts and methods used in a social science discipline.
3. Demonstrate how basic concepts and methods from a social science discipline explain individual or group behavior.
4. Evaluate the connection between social science research and social or political policy.
5. Apply concepts and methods from a social science discipline to social science research.

The purpose of this assignment is to evaluate whether or not these learning objectives have been met. The basics of this assignment are common to all the General Studies Social Science courses taught at UNK. Your professor may give you additional instructions that tailor the assignment specifically to your course, such as specifying a different length, the concept/s on which to focus, or the scholars whose work you are to discuss.

BASIC ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Write an essay (of 500-750 words) in which you answer the following question: Why is it important for a generally-educated person to understand the particular social science discipline that you are studying?

Contents of the essay:

- Begin with an introductory paragraph in which you briefly state your answer.
- In the body of your essay, develop and support your answer by focusing on a specific example of a concept or method for understanding human behavior that you learned in this course.
 - Describe the concept or method;
 - Demonstrate how it explains individual or group behavior (provide relevant evidence);
 - Evaluate the implications of the concept/method for social or political policy - In other words, explain how policymakers ought to act on this information;
- Conclude your essay by identifying one or more researchers whose work on this concept/method you think it is important for a generally-educated person to understand. Explain why.

Social Science RUBRIC

This rubric addresses the following GS Program (GS) learning outcomes: **#1** - evaluate information appropriate to the task and **#2** - apply principles of critical thinking to demonstrate integrative learning; and the following Social Science (SS) learning outcomes: **#1** – articulate the relevance of the Social Science course to their general education; **#2** - can describe basic concepts/methods used in a social science discipline; **#3** - demonstrate how basic concepts/ methods from a social science explain individual or group behavior; **#4** – evaluate the connection between social science research and social or political policy; **#5** – apply concepts and methods from a social science discipline to social science research.

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a Does not meet criteria to any work sample that does not meet Beginning level performance.

	Does not meet criteria for Beginning	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Advanced
Articulate Relevance (SS Outcome 1; GS Outcome 1)	Cannot articulate why the social science discipline is relevant.	<i>Limited</i> articulation of why the social science discipline is relevant.	Articulates <i>in general</i> why the social science discipline is relevant.	Articulates in <i>satisfactory detail</i> why the social science discipline is relevant.	Demonstrates a <i>thorough</i> understanding of the social science discipline and its relevance.
Describe basic concepts/methods (SS Outcome 2; GS Outcome 1)	Cannot describe a concept/method from the discipline.	Demonstrates a <i>limited</i> understanding of the selected concept/method.	Demonstrates a <i>basic</i> understanding of the selected concept/method.	Demonstrates a <i>satisfactory</i> understanding of the selected concept/method.	Demonstrates a <i>thorough</i> understanding of the selected concept/method.
Demonstrate how basic concepts/methods explain behavior (SS Outcome 3; GS Outcome 1)	Cannot demonstrate how the selected concept/method explains behavior.	Provides a <i>limited</i> demonstration of how the selected concept/method explains behavior.	Provides a <i>basic</i> demonstration of how the selected concept/method explains behavior.	Provides a <i>satisfactory</i> demonstration of how the selected concept/method explains behavior.	Provides a <i>thorough</i> demonstration of how the selected concept/method explains behavior.
Evaluate connection between research and policy (SS Outcome 4; GS Outcome 2)	Does not evaluate the implications of the concept/ method for public policy.	Provides a <i>limited</i> evaluation of the implications of the concept/method for public policy.	Provides a <i>basic</i> evaluation of the implications of the concept/method for public policy.	<i>Satisfactorily</i> evaluates the implications of the concept/method for public policy.	<i>Thoroughly</i> evaluates the implications of the concept/method for public policy.
Apply concepts to research (SS Outcome 5; GS Outcome 2)	Does not discuss research.	Demonstrates a <i>limited</i> understanding of the selected research.	Demonstrates a <i>basic</i> understanding of the selected research.	Demonstrates a <i>satisfactory</i> understanding of the selected research.	Demonstrates a <i>thorough</i> understanding of the selected research.