

UNK GENERAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT
Distribution Courses: Social Sciences 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 explaining how Social Science researchers apply the concept or method in their work and why you think it is important for a generally-educated person to understand.