

Social Science General Education Annual Assessment Report 2013-14

I. Introduction

The Social Science General Education Program serves all OIT degree students, who are each required to take twelve credits in this general education area. The program offers courses in anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. The program also offers a number of online courses to serve degree completion students as well as on-campus students.

II. Program Purpose, Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

The Social Science faculty reviewed the program purpose, objectives, and learning outcomes during the fall faculty meeting in September 2011. The faculty reaffirmed the statements below:

Social Science General Education Program Purpose

The Social Science general education program assists students in the acquiring empirical knowledge of those aspects of human experience that are social, political, economic, and psychological.

Program Educational Objectives

1. Foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and logical reasoning.
2. Develop knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods for understanding human behavior.
3. Provide an introductory understanding of the structures and processes of social institutions and individual behavior within cultures.

Expected Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates from this program will be able to:

1. Structure, analyze, evaluate, and support an argument both orally and in writing in the social sciences.
2. Interpret, compare, and contrast ideas in the social sciences.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the methods, techniques, concepts, and vocabularies of the social sciences.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of historical and contemporary issues in the social sciences.

III. Two-Year Cycle for Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

The faculty also confirmed the assessment cycle planned in 2007, as listed in Table 1 below.

Learning Outcomes	'09-10	'10-11	'11-12	'12-13	'13-14	'14-15
1. Structure, analyze, evaluate, and support an argument both orally and in writing in the social sciences.	X		X		X	
2. Interpret, compare, and contrast ideas in the social sciences.	X		X		X	
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the methods, techniques, concepts, and vocabularies of the social sciences.		X		X		X
4. Demonstrate knowledge of historical and contemporary issues.		X		X		X

Table 1. Social Science General Education Assessment Cycle

IV. Summary of 2013-14 Assessment Activities

Social sciences faculty conducted a formal assessment of two student learning outcomes during Winter term 2014.

Student Learning Outcome #1: Structure, analyze, evaluate, and support an argument both orally and in writing in the social sciences.

The Social Science faculty conducted an analysis of where this outcome is reflected in the curriculum. The mapping of this outcome to social science courses can be found in Appendix A, Student Learning Outcome-Course Matrix, table A1.

The faculty assessed student work from the online version of ANTH 452 Globalization using pre-existing video-based discussions in the Spring quarter. Eleven engineering and management students who ranged from Junior to Senior in one section of ANTH 452 were assessed. The faculty rated the proficiency of students using the performance criteria described in Table 2 below for criteria 1, 2, and 4 (the assignment did not ask the students to perform in the area of criteria 3, an error that was not caught before assessment took place).

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Measurement Scale	Minimum Acceptable Performance	Results
Uses appropriate organizational structure to present arguments	Student video, rubric	1 - 4 scale, % at 3 or 4	80% at 3 or 4	82%
Separates arguments into appropriate parts and shows their interrelations	Student video, rubric	1 - 4 scale, % at 3 or 4	80% at 3 or 4	72%
Evaluates the validity of evidence	Student video, rubric	1 - 4 scale, % at 3 or 4	80% at 3 or 4	NA
Selects appropriate evidence to support arguments	Student video, rubric	1 - 4 scale, % at 3 or 4	80% at 3 or 4	82%

Table 2 Assessment Results for SLO #1 in ANTH 452 for Winter 2014

Students met the assessment criteria for two of the three areas. Further assessment will be performed during 2015-2016.

Detailed records of this assessment can be found in the department assessment coordinator's notebook.

Student Learning Outcome #2: Interpret, compare, and contrast ideas in the social sciences.

The Social Science faculty conducted an analysis of where this outcome is reflected in the curriculum.

During Winter quarter 2014 students in PSY 401 (Advanced Counseling Techniques) were assigned to write papers on 10 different theoretical orientations (e.g., Person-Centered Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Interpersonal Therapy, Behavioral Therapy, Solution-Focused Brief Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and contemporary Psychodynamic Therapy) to counseling/psychotherapy. These papers were graded based on the student's ability to correctly identify the key concepts related to each theory (e.g., the nature of the therapeutic relationship, role of the counselor, role of the client, etiology of problems, typical treatment goals, specific interventions, and mechanisms of change), which required understanding how the key concepts of each theory were either similar to or different from other theoretical orientations to counseling.

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Measurement Scale	Minimum Acceptable Performance	Results
Defines key concepts in the social sciences	Mid-Term Examination, rubric	1 - 4 scale, % at 3 or 4	80% at 3 or 4	89%
Identifies similarities in different social science	Mid-Term Examination,	1 - 4 scale, % at 3 or 4	80% at 3 or 4	89%

theories	rubric			
Identifies differences between different social science theories	Mid-Term Examination, rubric	1 - 4 scale, % at 3 or 4	80% at 3 or 4	89%

Table 3 Assessment Results for SLO #2 in PSY 401 (Advanced Counseling Techniques) in Winter 2014.

89% of students successfully completed the theory paper assignments to the extent that they were able to correctly define the majority of key concepts and demonstrate competent understanding of both similarities and differences between different theoretical orientations to counseling.

V. Summary of Student Learning

Student Learning Outcome #1: Structure, analyze, evaluate, and support an argument both orally and in writing in the social sciences.

Strengths: Students met the performance criteria for two of the three criteria measured.

Weaknesses: One criterion fell below standard and one criterion was not evaluated.

Actions: The criterion that fell below standard and the criterion that was not evaluated will be re-assessed in the 2015-2016 assessment cycle.

Student Learning Outcome #2: Interpret, compare, and contrast ideas in the social sciences.

Strengths: Students met the goals for all criteria

Weaknesses: None

Actions: None.

VI. Changes Resulting From Assessment

No issues remain unresolved from the 2013-2014 assessment cycle.

Social science learning outcomes will be amended in 2014-2015.

Appendix A

Student Learning Outcome-Course Matrices

Student Learning Outcome #1: Structure, analyze, evaluate, and support an argument both orally and in writing in the social sciences. Table A1 demonstrates the mapping of this outcome to social science courses.

Social Science Course	Fall	Winter	Spring
ANTH 335		X	
ANTH 452			X
GEOG 106	X		
GEOG 107		X	
HIST 101	X		
HIST 102		X	
HIST 103			X
HIST 201	X		
HIST 202		X	
HIST 203			X
HIST 224	X		
HIST 225		X	
HIST 226			X
HIST 335	X		
HIST 356	X	X	X
PSCI 201			
PSY 311	X	X	X
PSY 312		X	X
PSY 347	X	X	X
PSY 410	X	X	X

Table A1. Student Learning Outcome #1-Course Matrix

Student Learning Outcome #2: Interpret, compare, and contrast ideas in the social sciences. Table A2 demonstrates the mapping of this outcome to social science courses.

Social Science Course	Fall	Winter	Spring
ANTH 335		X	
ANTH 452			X
ECO 201N	X	X	X
ECO 202N	X	X	X
GEOG 106	X		
GEOG 107		X	
GEOG 108			X
HIST 335	X		
HIST 356	X	X	X
PSCI 201			
PSY 311	X	X	X
PSY 312		X	X
PSY 347	X	X	X
PSY 410	X	X	X
SOC 204	X	X	X

Table A2. Student Learning Outcome #2-Course Matrix