

Social Sciences Core Assessment (revised spring 2025)

Outcomes/Rubrics

Please use the following outcomes and rubrics to assess student learning in your core course. Place each student into one of the categories below. You will need to report how many students fall into each category. Within this framework, learning outcome performance is expected to be universal (i.e., Exemplary performance means the same thing in all courses), regardless of the level of the course or student.

Theory, Principles, and Application

In all cases, a 0 score should be assigned when student shows no ability at even the Novice level.

If students do not complete assessment tool, they will receive a score of N/A.

	Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Novice (1)	No Competence (0)	N/A
Social Scientific Theories & Principles	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of social scientific theories and principles.	Demonstrates an adequate understanding of social scientific theories and principles.	Demonstrates an incomplete understanding of social scientific theories and principles.	Demonstrates incorrect understandings of social scientific theories and principles.	Shows no ability at even the Novice level.	Did not complete assessment tool.
Application of Theories & Principles	Thoroughly and carefully explains and comprehensively analyzes micro and/or macro social interactions and/or social structures.	Uses social scientific theories to explain and competently analyze social interactions and/or social structures.	Uses social scientific theories to explain and partially analyze social interactions and/or social structures.	Applies theories incorrectly to social interactions and/or social structures.	Shows no ability at even the Novice level.	Did not complete assessment tool.

Empirical Research

In all cases, a 0 score should be assigned when student shows no ability at even the Novice level.

If students do not complete assessment tool, they will receive a score of N/A.

	Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Novice (1)	No Competence (0)	N/A
Understanding of Research Findings	Provides accurate explanations of research findings and makes appropriate inferences.	Provides accurate explanations of research findings.	Provides partially accurate explanations of research findings.	Attempts to explain research findings but draws incorrect conclusions.	Shows no ability at even the Novice level.	Did not complete assessment tool.

Benchmarks

It is expected that 75% of students will score a 2 or higher on each outcome.

Please indicate a plan for action or improvement for each outcome. If your goal was met, please answer "Goal was met, and we are monitoring this outcome."

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Information you need to gather for each class before completing the assessment form:

Semester and year: _____

Instructor: _____

Course number and CRN(s): _____

Total number of students being assessed: _____

What types of artifacts, evidence, or tools did you use to make these assessments

☐ Exam questions

☐ Oral Presentation

☐ Written work

☐ Performance or Production

☐ Other: _____

Outcome 1: Students will demonstrate understanding of social scientific theories and principles.

Number of students:

Unable to assess: _____

0 – No ability: _____

1 – Novice: _____

2 – Developing: _____

3 – Proficient: _____

4 – Exemplary: _____

What kinds of actions do you plan to take to produce improvements in student learning for this outcome when you teach this course again?

☐ Change course content

☐ Change course assignments

☐ Change assessment tool

☐ I need other resources to improve (faculty member, staff support, etc.)

☐ Other: _____

Please elaborate on how you plan to produce improvements in this learning outcome:

Outcome 2: Students will apply social science theories and principles.

Number of students:

Unable to assess: _____

0 – No ability: _____

1 – Novice: _____

2 – Developing: _____

3 – Proficient: _____

4 – Exemplary: _____

What kinds of actions do you plan to take to produce improvements in student learning for this outcome when you teach this course again?

☐ Change course content

☐ Change course assignments

☐ Change assessment tool

☐ I need other resources to improve (faculty member, staff support, etc.)

☐ Other: _____

Please elaborate on how you plan to produce improvements in this learning outcome:

Outcome 3: Students will understand research findings.

Number of students:

Unable to assess: _____

0 – No ability: _____

1 – Novice: _____

2 – Developing: _____

3 – Proficient: _____

4 – Exemplary: _____

What kinds of actions do you plan to take to produce improvements in student learning for this outcome when you teach this course again?

☐ Change course content

☐ Change course assignments

☐ Change assessment tool

☐ I need other resources to improve (faculty member, staff support, etc.)

☐ Other: _____

Please elaborate on how you plan to produce improvements in this learning outcome: