

**History and Political Science  
Political Science - Foundational Explorations (FELO) Assessment  
2021-2022**

**Learning Outcome:**

GELO 2c. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts

**Outcome Measure:**

Assessment prompt given to students in:

POL 1001 Introduction to Political Science (formerly numbered POL 101)

POL 1090 Politics of Race, Class, and Gender (formerly number POL 190)

**Criteria for Success:**

Minimum average of 2.75 (out of 4) for each criterion on the analytic rubric

**Longitudinal Data:**

In Fall 2014, the General Education Learning Outcomes were revised. The scores below reflect data collected following the revision:

**Political Science General Education (2.C) Learning Outcome Assessment Rubric – Average Student Scores**

Course	Semester	N	Complexity	Well-Communicated	Evidence	Empathy	AVG
POL 101	Spring 2015	6	3.07	3.31	2.97	3.14	3.12
POL 101	Fall 2015	20	2.95	3.00	2.80	3.10	2.96
POL 101	Spring 2016	17	3.12	2.77	2.88	3.53	3.08
POL 101	Fall 2016	10	2.70	2.90	2.70	3.00	2.83
POL 101	Fall 2017	24	3.00	2.96	3.00	3.21	3.04
POL 101	Fall 2018	20	3.00	3.10	2.85	3.45	3.10
POL 101	Spring 2019	19	3.68	3.74	3.00	3.32	3.43
POL 1001	Fall 2019	20	3.10	2.95	3.00	3.40	3.11
POL 1001	Spring 2020	20	3.30	3.40	3.15	3.70	3.39
POL 1001	Fall 2020	18	3.28	3.00	3.22	3.44	3.24
POL 1001	Spring 2021	17	3.71	3.29	3.59	3.88	3.62
POL 1001	Fall 2021	20	3.15	3.05	2.95	3.35	3.05
POL 1001	Spring 2022	18	3.50	3.67	3.44	4.00	3.65
POL 190	Fall 2014	35	2.80	3.09	2.51	3.20	2.90
POL 190	Fall 2015	19	3.14	3.09	3.16	3.53	3.23
POL 190	Fall 2016	18	3.06	3.28	2.75	3.33	3.11

Course	Semester	N	Complexity	Well-Communicated	Evidence	Empathy	AVG
POL 190	Fall 2018	20	3.15	3.50	3.10	3.60	3.34
POL 1090	Fall 2019	19	3.42	3.74	3.42	3.90	3.62
POL 1090	Fall 2020	18	2.89	3.78	3.06	3.50	3.31
POL 1090	Fall 2021	19	3.42	3.53	2.84	3.58	3.34

\*This data gathered by taking a random sample of students across all section of the course.

**Conclusions Drawn from Data:**

The Foundational Explorations/General Education (FE/GE) students in our political science courses are performing well on all of our criteria, as they consistently meet our benchmark for success (minimum 2.75 out of 4.00). Their writing illustrates their ability to convey complex concepts and themes in an insightful and sophisticated manner. We continue to be impressed by their articulation and communication skills, especially given that many are first semester freshman. Finally, they are portraying a great deal of empathy with regard to social problems in the political world. In terms of areas in need of improvement, we would like to continue to work with them on making their writing more evidence-based, rather than opinion-based. This criterion tends to see a little more fluctuation than the other criteria.

**Changes to be Made Based on Data:**

None at this time. Continue to collect data.

**Rubric Used**

**Assessment Rubric for GE Learning Outcome #2C**

Students who complete this GE course will: demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts.

*Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.*

Criterion	Capstone (4)	Milestones (3)	Milestones (2)	Benchmark (1)
<b>Complexity</b>	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the complexity of the issue.	Demonstrates an adequate understanding of the complexity of the issue.	Demonstrates an awareness of the complexity of the issue.	Demonstrates minimal awareness of the complexity of the issue.
<b>Well-Communicated</b>	Uses graceful language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency.	Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers.	Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include some errors.	Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.
<b>Evidence</b>	Demonstrates skillful use of high-quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates consistent use of credible, relevant sources to support ideas that are situated within the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use credible and/or relevant sources to support ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use sources to support ideas in the writing.
<b>Empathy</b>	Demonstrates a deeply empathetic perspective with regard to diverse groups.	Demonstrates an adequately empathetic perspective with regard to diverse groups.	Demonstrates an awareness of distinct experiences among diverse groups.	Demonstrates minimal levels of care for distinct experiences among diverse groups.