History and Political Science
Political Science General Education (GELO) Assessment
2023-2024 and 2024-2025

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 from assessing a random sampling of students each academic year:

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

Course	Semester	N	Complexity	Well-Communicated	Evidence	Empathy
POL 101	Spring 2015	6	3.07	3.31	2.97	3.14
POL 101	Fall 2015	20	2.95	3.00	2.80	3.10
POL 101	Spring 2016	17	3.12	2.77	2.88	3.53
POL 101	Fall 2016	10	2.70	2.90	2.70	3.00
POL 101	Fall 2017	24	3.00	2.96	3.00	3.21
POL 101	Fall 2018	20	3.00	3.10	2.85	3.45
POL 101	Spring 2019	19	3.68	3.74	3.00	3.32
POL 1001	Fall 2019	20	3.10	2.95	3.00	3.40
POL 1001	Spring 2020	20	3.30	3.40	3.15	3.70
POL 1001	Fall 2020	18	3.28	3.00	3.22	3.44
POL 1001	Spring 2021	17	3.71	3.29	3.59	3.88
POL 1001	Fall 2021	20	3.15	3.05	2.95	3.35
POL 1001	Spring 2022	18	3.50	3.67	3.44	4.00
POL 1001	Spring 2023*	20	3.00	3.05	3.15	3.40
POL 1001	Fall 2023	20	3.05	2.85	3.20	3.65
POL 1001	Spring 2024	25	2.88	3.12	3.04	3.32
POL 1001	Fall 2024	25	3.32	3.16	3.20	3.52
POL 1001	Spring 2025	18	3.39	3.33	3.39	3.56

Course	Semester	N	Complexity	Well-Communicated	Evidence	Empathy
POL 101	Spring 2015	6	3.07	3.31	2.97	3.14
POL 190	Fall 2014	35	2.80	3.09	2.51	3.20
POL 190	Fall 2015	19	3.14	3.09	3.16	3.53
POL 190	Fall 2016	18	3.06	3.28	2.75	3.33
POL 190	Fall 2018	20	3.15	3.50	3.10	3.60
POL 1090	Fall 2019	19	3.42	3.74	3.42	3.90
POL 1090	Fall 2020	18	2.89	3.78	3.06	3.50
POL 1090	Fall 2021	19	3.42	3.53	2.84	3.58
POL 1090	Fall 2023*	20	3.45	3.95	3.00	3.80
POL 1090	Fall 2024	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Data was not collected in fall 2022 while the university was transitioning to a new AMS. Data was also not collected in Fall 2024 as the course was not taught (due to Linda Beail's sabbatical).

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

For political science, our general education students 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 working with them on communication, as we may start to see (or already be seeing) some impacts from AI entering into their writing process, which might show up as lower levels of communication on in-class written exams.

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)
Complexity	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.
Well-Communicated	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.
Evidence	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.
Empathy	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.