

**History and Political Science Department
Political Science General Education Assessment Data
2014-2015**

Learning Outcome:

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 101 Introduction to Political Science
POL 190 The Politics of Race, Class and Gender

“Anderson Cooper of CNN invites you on his political news show (Anderson Cooper 360°) to discuss the status of the developing world. He asks you: “how are they faring with regard to prosperity and what challenges do they face?” How would you answer?”

Criteria for Success:

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

Longitudinal Data:

In Fall 2014, the General Education Learning Outcomes were revised. The scores below reflect data collected during Fall 2014 and Spring 2015.

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

Course	Semester	N	Complexity	Well-Communicated	Evidence	Empathy	Total
POL 101	Fall 2014	29	3.07	3.31	2.97	3.14	3.12
POL 101	Spring 2015*	6	3.00	2.67	3.00	2.67	2.83
POL 190	Fall 2014	35	2.80	3.09	2.51	3.20	2.90

*This data gathered by taking a random sample of students from the course.

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

For political science, our general education students are performing well on all of our criteria. Their writing illustrates their ability to convey complex concepts and themes in an articulate and sophisticated manner. They are also portraying a great deal of empathy with regard to issues impacting the political world. In terms of areas in need of improvement, we would like to work with them on making their writing more evidence-based, rather than opinion-based.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

None at this time. Continue to collect data.

Rubric Used

Political Science General Education (2.C) Learning Outcome Assessment Rubric

Political Science assessment prompt: *Anderson Cooper of CNN invites you on his political news show (Anderson Cooper 360°) to discuss the status of the developing world. He asks you: “how are they faring with regard to prosperity and what challenges do they face?” How would you answer?*

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.