

Political Science

First, identify 3 to 5 Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Most of you have done this. These SLOs will be placed in the 2005-2006 online catalog.

Second, identify the methods for assessing each of these learning outcomes. They may be essays, recitals, quantitative exams, rubrics, etc.)

Outcome: Political Science graduates will acquire the techniques for skillfully reading and interpreting different types of writing, such as textbooks, scholarly books and journal articles, case law, newspaper articles, government documents (including those that employ statistics), and original philosophical texts.

Indicators:

Summarize in writing material from textbooks that has not been reviewed in class. Describe the contents of scholarly books and journals and government documents in research papers.

Analyze decisions in court cases in either examinations or papers.

Analyze original philosophical texts in either examinations or papers.

Summarize and analyze newspaper articles either orally or in writing.

Outcome: Graduates will be able to assess information, including demonstrating the ability to distinguish between the central and peripheral aspects of a piece of writing, and between well-substantiated arguments and unsupported assertions.

Indicator:

Write a critical review of a piece of writing, stating the central points and assessing the quality of the arguments.

Outcome: Graduates will be able to write knowledgeably, correctly, clearly and logically.

Indicators:

In written work (exams and papers): discuss the relationships among concepts; adduce evidence for assertions; develop general ideas from a mass of particulars; compare and contrast both ideas and institutions; and defend values, ideas and systems of ideas from criticism.

Write a short essay that develops an argument.

Third, identify the entry level course, whether for freshmen or transfer students, where the first assessment of the above identified SLOs will take place. POSC 3030. The Study of Political Science.

Fourth, identify the exit level course, such as a capstone course or culminating experience, where the same SLOs will be assessed. POSC 4910, Senior Seminar in Political Science.

