# **GE Area 3 Assessment**

**Semester:** Spring 2018

**GELO:** Identify, examine, and evaluate social (political, economic, justice) issues and concepts (ILO 3.4)

Method of assessment: Analysis of activities across multiple semesters in ANTH 121, 122, PSY 123, 124, LGBT 120, 121, ADMJ 120, 121, 122, SOC 120, 121, 123, HIST 120, 121, 122, POLI 120, 121, 125, ECON 100, 101

**Criteria:** Students will achieve an average of 70% on assignments and exams

**Results**

The cumulative average across multiple courses and semesters was 80%, which exceeds the criteria for the general education area outcome. Students excelled across disciplines in identifying and defining terminology. They demonstrated consistent ability to grasp and recite factual information from primary sources. Students who used journals showed increased success.

Faculty reported that students struggled to make higher cognitive moves with the learned information, including understanding bigger picture concepts and applying theories. Instructors attributed some of students’ challenges to reading deficiencies: failing to complete assigned reading or trouble interpreting texts. Assessments that involved writing also showed problems with developing a thesis, logical structure of argument, supporting opinions with facts, and concise conclusions. Faculty noticed a growing trend in students skipping some components of a project or not completing work. Some instructors noticed high school students are underperforming.

Students would benefit from increased support for research, writing, study strategies, and reading effectively (tutors needed). Faculty would like more collaboration with the Writing Success Center and English departments to encourage more discipline specific writing practices and prompt analysis. Discussion included possible English co-requisites linked to Social and Behavioral Sciences courses.

Instructors identified the need to refine learning outcomes, with a focus on more discipline specific language. Departments seek funds to compensate part-time instructors to attend assessment discussions and participate in developing common assessment tools utilizing Canvas.