

**Guidelines for Reviewing Courses to Meet
Upper and Lower Division General Education Requirements
for Breadth Area D**

Area Definition: The Social Sciences examine and order human experience. They provide an understanding of the development, functioning and conflicts in human society over time. In achieving this understanding, the Social Sciences use unique conceptual perspectives. Taken together, the courses in Breadth Area D general education will

- I. Offer students knowledge about their minds, the development, functioning and conflicts in human society, and the cultural endeavors and legacies of civilization;
- II. Address contemporary and historical issues of Western and Non-Western worlds.
- III. Map connections between human behavior and social, political and economic institutions.
- IV. Represent a balance of social science disciplines, topic areas, and micro and macro foci.

Each Lower and Upper Division Course in Breadth Area D must:

- I. Provide students with an understanding of the principles, methodologies, value systems, and thought processes used in the social sciences;
- II. Incorporate and interrelate in the course structure at least four (4) core “organizing principles:”
 - A. Culture – patterned complex of ideas and behaviors that we learn as members of groups and transmit across generations.
 - B. Ethnicity – origins and characteristics of people’s cultural, racial, religious and linguistic traditions.
 - C. Gender – interrelated and socially constructed systems for interaction and institutional organization that orient the lives of “men” and “women.”
 - D. Place – site and situation, dependency relationships between regions, humans and the land.
 - E. Time – sequential relationships in individual and social development, continuities and discontinuities. Demonstrates connections between past and successive periods.
 - F. Economy – systems that structure the production, distribution and use of resources, income, wealth, goods and services.
 - G. Political Community -- determines and evaluates the means and ends of governing and other systems of power.
 - H. Behavioral, Emotional & Cognitive Processes – that focus on the psycho biological, experiential, and psychological influences.
 - I. Human Interaction and Organization – norms, laws, organizational structures, values and cultures that orient everyday life.

- III. Include work of women and people of color;
- IV. Explore human values, social issues and the impact of social change on human experiences;
- V. Develop critical analytical skills in the application of essential concepts;
- VI. Foster development of strong oral and written communication skills. Each course will include written assignments appropriate for the course level;
- VII. Be offered for three (3) units.

Each Upper Division Course in Breadth Area D must also:

- I. Represent the nature, scope and limits of scholarship in the social sciences in comparison to other branches of human inquiry.
- II. Explore a focused topic or theme assuring depth in analysis.

New Course Proposals for Breadth Area D designation must include:

- I. Description of how the course will meet the Area D goals outlined above;
- II. A course syllabus including
 - A. Statement of goals specific to the course;
 - B. Statement of GE goals addressed in the course;
 - C. Required Reading;
 - D. Explanation of student evaluation methods including out-of-class written assignment;
 - E. Sample schedule of topics, readings and assignments.

The Course Approval Process includes:

- I. Review by the Departmental or Initiating Unit Curriculum Committee;
- II. Review by the College Curriculum Committee(s). If a course is recommended by a person in a department outside the college with oversight authority, it will be reviewed by the committees of both colleges, the one in which it originates and the one with oversight authority;
- III. Review by the University Curriculum Committee if not approved by the oversight college committee;
- IV. Review by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Each department or unit with a course approved for Breadth Area D designation must agree to participate in the periodic review of that course's success in meeting Area D goals. These reviews will be conducted in accordance with CAHSS standing policy on Area D Program Review.

