**GE Area 3 Assessment**

**Semester:** Spring 2020

**GELO:** Evaluate and apply the principles and methodologies used by the social and behavioral sciences.

**Method of Assessment:** Analysis of activities across multiple semesters in HIST 122, 123, 140, 150, POLI 120, 135, 140, 145, CFS 120, 140, 180, ADMJ 121, 122, 125, ANTH 130, 131, 145, 200, PSYC 124, 125, 220, SOCI 122, 123, 140, 154

**Criteria:** 70% of students will earn a 70% or higher on the activity

**Results**

Quantitative: 80% average on activities across 5 years

Reflections:

Students demonstrated strengths in evaluating and applying principles and methodologies used by the social and behavioral sciences when identifying key components of theories and how they align with debates, understanding who the key figures are associated with theories, and recognizing approaches used in studies. Students with strong reading and writing skills do well in courses. Overall, students are able to compare and contrast theories and utilize description.

Students display difficulties investigating/interrogating primary sources and secondary sources, performing text analysis, offering critique, and practicing thinking. Sustaining work effort and quality have proven challenging, as some students show a lack of ability to engage in systematic, analytical thought, possibly due to limited reading and awareness of writing structure.

Instructors include a number of activities in their courses: essays, research papers, projects, quizzes, experiential activities, on campus field trips

Introductory courses provide a survey of analytical frameworks, including experiences for using frameworks, small group work, and team presentations

Future GE assessment could include focus groups of students

**Action Plans**

Professional development needs: effective pedagogy for teaching online, big picture cross-disciplinary opportunities, support for utilizing routine guest speakers, funding for membership to professional organizations

Other institutional support needs: co-teaching opportunities, support to promote real-world scenarios for students to apply frameworks, long-term funding for Canvas tools (such as Canvas Studio), Proctorio, NetTutor, more loaner laptops for students, support for Accessibility (such as hiring an Accessibility specialist for faculty)