

**Minimal Course Content Criteria for Meeting Social Science Distribution Gen Ed Requirement
(FS-GEC Approved Document 10-13-14)**

The social sciences represent the intellectual tradition concerned with society/culture, and the workings and relationships among individuals within and between the world's societies and peoples. Social science disciplines rely primarily on empirical approaches, rather than the critical or speculative approaches of the humanities and fine arts. Courses that satisfy the UNLV social science distribution credit requirement must satisfy the following **five** criteria:

- 1) Must be introductory or survey courses accessible to students outside the major with few or no prerequisites.
- 2) Must include course material that identifies the fundamental assumptions, goals, and methods of the social sciences.

Social science distribution courses must also contribute to the following three UNLV General Education University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULO). Specifically, social science distribution courses will:

- 3) Contribute to the ***Intellectual Breadth and Life Long Learning*** UULO by (minimum of three of the following):

- a. Providing a taxonomy which provides students with an understanding of the scope of problems investigated by social scientists
- b. Inform students of the importance of using scientific reasoning and the scientific method in the social sciences.
- c. Identifying how the research methods and theoretical models of the social sciences have been applied to define, solve, and evaluate human problems.
- d. Demonstrating to students how the scientific method is applied in a social science context to problems specific to the discipline
- e. Transferring knowledge and skills gained from general and specialized studies to new settings and complex problems.
- f. Providing opportunities for students to independently evaluate and analyze research questions and real world policy prescriptions.
- g. Demonstrating life-long learning skills, including the ability to place problems in personally meaningful contexts, reflect on one's own understanding, demonstrate awareness of what needs to be learned, articulate a learning plan, and act independently on the plan using appropriate resources.
- h. Requiring students to conduct analysis of discipline-related questions or policies independently, outside of the classroom environment

- 4) Contribute to the ***Global/Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness*** UULO by:

- a. Identifying the methodologies employed by social science disciplines to conduct scientific inquiry into global and/or multicultural issues, and analyze policy related to those issues.

- 5) Contribute to the ***Citizenship and Ethics*** UULO by (minimum of one of the following):

- a. Acquiring knowledge of political, economic, or social institutions.
- b. Developing skills in students that enable them to understand and analyze the workings of human interactions in a political, economic, or social context.