

Liberal Studies Program

Learning Outcomes and Writing Expectations for SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND BEHAVIORAL INQUIRY (SCBI) COURSES

Courses in the Social, Cultural and Behavioral Inquiry domain focus on the mutual impact of society and culture on individuals, and of individuals on society and culture. Particular attention is given to human relationships and behavior as they are influenced by social, economic and political institutions, spatial and geographical factors, and the events and social and cultural forces at play in the contemporary world. The domain emphasizes the pursuit of knowledge through the development of theory and empirical investigation of the contemporary world. Courses in the domain explore such particular issues as poverty and economic opportunity, the environment, nationalism, racism, individual alienation, gender differences, and the bases of conflict and consensus in complex, urban societies and in global relations.

The learning outcomes for these courses are as follows:

- 1) Students will analyze and reflect upon arguments about the contemporary world using relevant theory, methods, and/or empirical evidence.
- 2) Students will be able to analyze interdependent relationships between contemporary society and individuals.

Analyses that help students reflect upon and understand the nature and sources of inequality and social injustices, or effective responses to inequality and injustice, are especially encouraged.

Writing Expectations

Students in Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Inquiry courses will demonstrate that they have mastered one or more of the learning outcomes through writing. It is expected that the equivalent of ten pages (which may be distributed across a series of assignments including papers, exams, journals, problem-sets and in-class writing assignments) will be required. At least five of those pages must be written outside class.