

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
(As amended October 2008)

The specific outcomes and competencies that our 2008 assessment is geared to measure are as follows:

1. Students should be able to explain how to investigate political phenomenon from different theoretical perspectives within the discipline.
2. Students should be able to investigate political phenomena using social scientific approaches. This includes developing empirical questions and hypotheses, using evidence and relating findings and conclusions to broader theories in the field.
3. Students should be familiar with standard sources of information used in the field of Political Science, including US government and international documents & websites, databases, specialized journals, books and other relevant material, and should be able to incorporate basic research using both quantitative and qualitative data into their own work.
4. Students should demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively through their written work.
5. Students should demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluating ideas and information and in making arguments about political phenomena. Students should be able not only to generate data, but also to discuss what particular data mean for political life. There should be a demonstrated understanding of the difference between analysis and opinion, and a demonstrated ability to critique existing accounts of political phenomena.