

## Social and Behavioral Sciences

### Social Science BA Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- I. Theory
  - A. Define theory and describe and illustrate its role in building scientific knowledge related to a particular sub-discipline (psychology, history, etc.).
  - B. Identify major theories within the discipline and compare and contrast their key concepts and assumptions.
  - C. Understand major concepts and principles within the discipline and apply them to explain specific examples of behavior and interaction.
  - D. Critically assess the major theoretical approaches used to interpret phenomena related to a particular sub-discipline.
  - E. Understand and show how theories reflect the historical and social contexts of the times and cultures in which they were developed.
- II. Methods
  - A. Identify basic methodological approaches and describe the general role of methods in building scientific knowledge.
  - B. Compare and contrast the basic methodological approaches for gathering data.
  - C. Design a research study in an area of choice and explain why various choices were made.
  - D. Critically assess a publication within the field and explain how it could be improved.
  - E. Understand ethical codes that govern the conduct of researchers in the discipline and how knowledge gained from such research may be applied to people and lives.
- III. Culture
  - A. Define culture and identify the essential components of culture.
  - B. Explain how subcultures and countercultures reflect diversity within society.
  - C. Articulate the extent to which you are influenced by popular culture.
  - D. Compare and evaluate how the various perspectives within your discipline view culture.

Note: These SLOs reflect the department KSAs: #1 and 2 are derived from the KSA “To teach students concepts, theories, and methods of the social and behavioral sciences” and #3 reflects the KSA “To enable students to cope effectively with the socio-cultural and interpersonal process of a constantly changing, complex society.”