

**UNIT EFFECTIVENESS PROCESS**  
**PHASE 1 – ASSESSMENT PLAN for STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**  
**2006-2007**

**Unit Name:** Political Science

**Degree Program** (For Academic Instructional Units)  
*Please use a separate Form B for each degree program*  
B.A. in Political Science

**Student Competencies** (Statements of knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors that program majors should be able to demonstrate upon completion of the degree program.)

Upon graduation, Political Science majors should be competent in understanding, analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating theories, values, relationships, frameworks, and policies applicable to diverse political systems

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**Intended Outcome 1**

Political Science majors should demonstrate knowledge of the political process (inputs, decision-making entities, and outputs) in at least one nation-state.

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

Knowledge of the components of the political system and their interaction is the initial step in analyzing and interpreting theoretical frameworks.

**Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

All upper-level undergraduate courses in Political Science will address at least one component of the political process.

**Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
- *the criteria for success*
- *the timetable for assessment activity*
- *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*

A faculty assessment committee will evaluate embedded assignments of Political Science graduating seniors in terms of basic knowledge of one country's political system. Success will be determined by all students demonstrating in a written essay basic knowledge of at least one political system. The assessment will occur over a two-year period (2006-07). The Departmental Chairperson will be responsible for the assessment.

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**Intended Outcome 2**

Students should be able to summarize and critique at least one major theory in the discipline of Political Science.

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

This outcome stems directly from the theoretical competency expected of graduating Political Science majors.

**Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

All faculty in advanced undergraduate Political Science courses will require students to synthesize at least one theoretical perspective.

**Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
- *the criteria for success*
- *the timetable for assessment activity*
- *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*

A random sample of 50 students in advanced undergraduate classes will be evaluated by their professors on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their critical synthesis of a major theory. An average score of 8 or above will be deemed the criteria for success. The Department Chairperson will be responsible for the assessment over a two-year period (2006-07).

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**Intended Outcome 3**

Students will be able to analyze a particular problem or policy in terms of stated goals or outcomes.

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

This outcome is directly related to the competency of evaluating policies.

**Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

All faculty in advanced undergraduate Political Science courses will require students to analyze at least one policy initiative and evaluate its outcome.

**Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
- *the criteria for success*
- *the timetable for assessment activity*
- *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*

A faculty committee will evaluate student portfolios on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their capability to analyze policy. An average score of 8 or above will be deemed successful. The Department Chairperson will be responsible for the assessment over a two-year period.

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**Intended Outcome 4**

Students will be able to contrast different value approaches to a common issue.

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

This outcome is linked to interpretation of values.

**Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

All faculty in advanced undergraduate Political Science theory courses will require students to evaluate value positions.

**Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
- *the criteria for success*
- *the timetable for assessment activity*
- *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*

All faculty in advanced undergraduate Political Science theory courses will require students to evaluate value positions. An average score of 8 or above will be deemed successful. The Department Chairperson will be responsible for the assessment over a two-year period.

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**Intended Outcome 5**

All Political Science majors will demonstrate proficiency in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data and presenting results.

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

This outcome is derived from the competency of analyzing frameworks.

**Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

The required Methods course (POLS 3310) will incorporate elements of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data.

**Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
- *the criteria for success*
- *the timetable for assessment activity*
- *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*

The faculty teaching POLS 3310 will score all students' ability to collect, analyze, and interpret data through a series of exercises. Scores will be percentiles from 0 to 100 percent. An average score of 80 percent or above will be the criteria for success. The Department Chairperson will be responsible for this assessment over a period of two years (2006-07).

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**Intended Outcome 6**

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

## **Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

### **Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
  - *the criteria for success*
  - *the timetable for assessment activity*
  - *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*
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## **Intended Outcome 7**

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

## **Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

### **Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
  - *the criteria for success*
  - *the timetable for assessment activity*
  - *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*
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## **Intended Outcome 8**

**Related Student Competency** (If intended outcome is derived from student competency)

## **Action Steps to Achieve Intended Outcome**

### **Assessment Methodology**

*Include the following:*

- *full description of the planned assessment activity*
- *the criteria for success*
- *the timetable for assessment activity*
- *responsible persons (by job title, not name) and specific duty*

