

CSU GE Breadth Area D and IGETC Area 4

Social Sciences and Social and Behavioral Sciences

Social Sciences

CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

Students learn from courses in multiple Area D disciplines that human social, political and economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven. Through fulfillment of the Area D requirement, students will develop an understanding of problems and issues from the respective disciplinary perspectives and will examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts. Students will explore the principles, methodologies, value systems and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry. Courses that emphasize skills development and professional preparation are excluded from Area D.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

IGETC Standards 2.3

The pattern of coursework completed shall ensure opportunities for students to develop understanding of the perspectives and research methods of the social and behavioral sciences. Problems and issues in these areas should be examined in their contemporary, historical, and geographical settings. Students who have completed this requirement shall have been exposed to a pattern of coursework designed to help them gain an understanding and appreciation of the contributions and perspectives of men, women and of ethnic and other minorities and a comparative perspective on both Western and non-Western societies. The material should be presented from a theoretical point of view and focus on core concepts and methods of the discipline rather than on personal, practical, or applied aspects.

<p style="text-align: center;">CSU GE Breadth Area D</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IGETC Area 4</p>
<p>Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students explore the principles, methodologies, value systems, and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry • students learn how to practice social science, and not just understand what social scientists have concluded • course leads to a broad understanding of social science, and not just the discipline within it • students are learning more than pre-professional skills • at the extreme, courses proposed for GE social science can look too much like training for careers in criminal justice or social work, with learning objectives different from those of GE 	<p>Social and Behavioral Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students develop understanding of the perspectives and research methods of the social and behavioral sciences • problems and issues examined in contemporary, historical, and geographical settings • comparative perspective on both Western and non-Western societies • material presented from a theoretical point of view and focuses on core concepts and methods of the discipline rather than on personal, practical, or applied aspects • students gain basic knowledge of the cultural and social organizations in which they exist as well as the behavior and social organization of their human societies • study of perspectives that have been made by men and women, and members of various ethnic or cultural groups • Administration of Justice courses accepted if focus is on core concepts of social and behavioral sciences

Special cases in Social and Behavioral Science Research Methodology:

A growing number of CCCs propose courses such as “Research Methods in Psychology” or “Research Methods in Sociology” to satisfy both GE transfer requirements in social science, and major requirements for ADTs. Reviewers have found that for such courses to meet GE criteria, the challenge is often to “rise above technique,” to develop the student’s analytical capacity and understanding of social science in ways that would be useful to any educated citizen and transferable to many walks of life in addition to those of professional social scientists. Such courses often cover disciplinary fundamentals in addition to statistical techniques, *but unless the course outline states these both explicitly, it is unlikely to be approved for Area 4 or D.*