

## Form E-1-A for Boston College Core Curriculum

Department: Political Science (2024)

### **1) Have formal learning outcomes for the department's Core courses been developed?**

**What are they?** (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect students completing its Core courses to have acquired?)

Our department's learning outcomes are derived from those specified by the A&S Undergraduate Core Development Committee (UCDC) as Core Social Science course learning goals, and they have been in force as guidelines for our assessments since 2012. Political Science Core courses should improve students' understanding in the following areas:

- a. awareness of and sensitivity to the political dimensions of their human existence
- b. awareness of the causes of human behavior
- c. awareness of the dynamics and dimensions of political change
- d. ability to identify and appreciate the social scientific dimension of problems facing society today

### **2) Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific.** (Where are the department's expected learning outcomes for its Core courses accessible: on the web, in the catalog, or in your department handouts?)

The learning outcomes for Social Science Core can be found at BC's Core Requirements and Courses web page.

The learning outcomes for Political Science courses are published on the Department's undergraduate program page:  
<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/mcas/departments/political-science/undergraduate.html>

### **3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether students have achieved the stated outcomes for the Core requirement?** (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes have been achieved more or less well?)

Four years ago the department instituted a new two-

**4) Who interprets the evidence? What is the process?** (Who in the department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum or assignment changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

The responsibility in general lies with the Undergraduate Committee. More specifically, the