

Social, Historical and Cultural Understanding

Learning Goal: By studying the world from the perspectives and frameworks of history and the social sciences, students will understand how to place today's world in a meaningful context and to arrive at sufficiently complex explanations for current social arrangements. These perspectives and their methodologies allow students to probe deeply into the richness and diversity of what it has meant and means to be a human in relationship with others, in different places and times.

Learning Outcomes: Students will

1. Examine human activity in particular periods or places from a social, cultural or historical perspective; and
2. Demonstrate an understanding of theories of human behavior, relations, culture, or institutions; or interpretations of historical causation and change; and
3. Employ social science or historical methodology to collect and interpret evidence about the social world.

Rationale (i.e., the intention of the proposed outcomes): The outcomes for Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding are intended to reflect the methodology of the disciplines of social science and history. Outcome #1 is about content, noting that students are expected to learn and apply their skills in the context of the study of human activities. Outcome #2 expects students to articulate one or more theoretical/explanatory frameworks that are operative in these disciplines. This will likely take on different forms, depending on the criteria of the specific discipline in question. Outcome #3 expects students to employ the methodology used by these disciplines i.e., their standards of evidence and argumentation.