

Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for
SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES [SB]

Rationale and Objectives

Social-behavioral sciences use distinctive scientific methods of inquiry and generate empirical knowledge about human behavior, within society and across cultural groups. Courses in this area address the challenge of understanding the diverse natures of individuals and cultural groups who live together in a complex and evolving world.

In both private and public sectors, people rely on social scientific findings to consider and assess the social consequences of both large-scale and group economic, technological, scientific, political, ecological and cultural change. Social scientists' observations about human interactions with the broader society and their unique perspectives on human events make an important contribution to civic dialogue.

Courses proposed for a General Studies designation in the Social-Behavioral Sciences area must demonstrate emphases on: (1) social scientific theories, perspectives and principles, (2) the use of social-behavioral methods to acquire knowledge about cultural or social events and processes, and (3) the impact of social scientific understanding on the world.

Revised April 2014

Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

ASU--[SB] CRITERIA					
A SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES [SB] course should meet all of the following criteria. If not, a rationale for exclusion should be provided.					
YES	NO		Identify Documentation Submitted		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Course is designed to advance basic understanding and knowledge about human interaction.	As noted in the course schedule, every week focuses on some form of human interaction as viewed through a wide range of disciplinary perspectives.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Course content emphasizes the study of social behavior such as that found in: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANTHROPOLOGY • ECONOMICS • CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY • HISTORY </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> history, American Indian studies, political science, anthropology, women and gender studies, religious studies, African American studies, Asian-Pacific American Studies </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANTHROPOLOGY • ECONOMICS • CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY • HISTORY 	history, American Indian studies, political science, anthropology, women and gender studies, religious studies, African American studies, Asian-Pacific American Studies	As noted in the course schedule, the course includes analyses from the perspectives of history, American Indian Studies, political science, anthropology, women's studies, religious studies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANTHROPOLOGY • ECONOMICS • CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY • HISTORY 	history, American Indian studies, political science, anthropology, women and gender studies, religious studies, African American studies, Asian-Pacific American Studies				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Course emphasizes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the distinct knowledge base of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., sociological anthropological). <li style="text-align: center;">OR b. the distinct methods of inquiry of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., ethnography, historical analysis). 	As noted in the weekly schedule, the courses includes perspectives from history, political science, anthropology, women and gender studies, African American studies, Asian-Pacific American studies, religious studies.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Course illustrates use of social and behavioral science perspectives and data.	As noted in the weekly schedule, the courses includes perspectives from history, political science, anthropology, women and gender studies, African American studies, Asian-Pacific American studies, religious studies.		

ASU--[SB] CRITERIA

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF COURSES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE [SB] AREA EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE CONCERNS:

- Courses with primarily arts, humanities, literary or philosophical content.
- Courses with primarily natural or physical science content.
- Courses with predominantly applied orientation for professional skills or training purposes.
- Courses emphasizing primarily oral, quantitative, or written skills.

Course Prefix	Number	Title	General Studies Designation
ASU	194	Introduction to American Culture	SB

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the specific designation criteria. Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

Criteria (from checksheet)	How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)	Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)
See 1	Encourages understanding and knowledge of human interactions in contemporary US society	Course assignments in the syllabus will encourage human interactions and discourse. Weekly writing assignment prompts are designed to foster contact with varied cultural, artistic, ethical, political, and social perspectives.
See 2		
See 3		
See 4		

ASU 194: Introduction to American Culture

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Students will learn about American culture, inside and outside the classroom, while learning to communicate effectively with their peers.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructors of Record:

Tempe campus: Meenakshi Wadhwa
Downtown campus: Pamela Stewart
West campus: Patricia Tusay
Polytechnic campus: Keith Hollinger

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to help international students succeed within and beyond the ASU classroom. The course involves a multidisciplinary approach to introducing American culture and diversity in an academic setting. It introduces cultural perspectives of different disciplines through class lectures and encourages student engagement through group discussions focused on a wide array of topics from classroom culture to diverse communication styles and expectations. The course employs methods from the social sciences and the humanities to study such topics as American discovery and colonialism, expansion and conflict, emergence and resurgence, the sovereign self, gender, race, ethnicity, religious experience, technology, immigration, international views of America, American foreign policy, and American education. Students will also study American film, mass media, and popular culture, with a focus on the many forms of diversity that make American what it is.

Course Organization:

This 3-credit course employs a lecture and discussion format on a weekly basis. The lectures will draw from various disciplinary content areas and will be delivered either by the instructor of record or by guest lecturers (typically faculty from various disciplines). The weekly discussion will address a specific topic through an assignment that will engage students in informal and conversational discussions on that topic.

Course Objectives:

- Prepare students to engage with the American university and academic culture.
- Improve interpersonal and intercultural communication skills that will support students inside and outside the classroom.
- Develop strong verbal and written communication skills that will promote each student's ability to frame and articulate ideas, analyze and evaluate information, and develop creative insights and solutions.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students are expected to be able to:

1. Describe the American experience and interpret (informal and formal) cultural communications appropriately.
2. Synthesize knowledge about American education, culture and society in order to perform successfully in the American classroom and at campus events.
3. Respond appropriately to cultural diversity particularly across the issues of class, ethnicity, gender, religion, and race.
4. Respond appropriately to academic, social, and cultural situations.
5. Evaluate the impact of popular culture on learning in and out of the classroom.
6. Analyze social thought and related problems as they relate to American education.
7. Explain Americans' belief in freedom of choice.
8. Analyze distinct aspects of American culture from disciplinary perspectives (e.g., the ideas of American Exceptionalism and Manifest Destiny as a defining ideology emerging from US history and as motivation for American foreign policy).
9. Describe ASU Academic Standards.
10. Explain ASU academic integrity policies and define plagiarism.
11. Demonstrate proficient use of the ASU Library system.
12. Demonstrate proficiency with digital media such as Blackboard, PowerPoint, and word processing software.
13. Effectively engage in discussions inside and outside of the classroom.
14. Demonstrate progressively more refined English comprehension and communication (oral and written) skills.

Course topics for the weekly lectures and discussions*:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Week 1 | Navigating ASU: Resources for international students, including Advising; Writing Center; ASU Library system; Blackboard (outcomes = 11, 12) |
| Week 2 | Navigating ASU: Academic standards; academic integrity policies; classroom expectations (outcome = 9, 10) |

- Week 3 Building America: Discovery and Colonialism
(outcomes = 1, 3) Content area: American History
- Week 4 Building America: Expansion and Conflict
(outcomes = 1, 3, 8) Content area: American Indian Studies
- Week 5 Building America: Emergence and Resurgence
(outcomes = 6, 7) Content area: Political Science
- Week 6 Individual & Culture: The Sovereign Self
(outcomes = 2 – 4, 6, 7) Content area: Socio-Cultural Anthropology
- Week 7 Individual & Culture: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity
(outcomes = 3, 4, 6, 7) Content areas: Women and Gender Studies;
African American Studies; Asian-Pacific American Studies
- Week 8 American Culture: Varieties of Religious Experience
(outcomes = 2, 3, 6) Content area: Religious Studies
- Week 9 American Culture: Strata of the Popular
(outcomes = 1, 5, 6) Content area: Film, Media, and Pop Culture
- Week 10 American Culture: The ‘American’ Century & Technologies
(outcomes = 1, 2, 6) Content areas: Advances in Science & Technology,
Entrepreneurship
- Week 11 American Culture: Cultural Capital and/or Cultural Colonialism
(outcomes = 2, 5, 6) Content area: Cultural Anthropology
- Week 12 America and the World: Into the World
(outcomes = 6, 8) Content area: Political Science (American Foreign
Policy)
- Week 13 America and the World: The Rise of Immigration
(outcomes = 2 – 4) Content area: Transborder Studies
- Week 14 America and the World: The View from Outside
(outcomes = 1 – 4, 13) Content area: Political Science (International
Relations)
- Week 15 Synthesis & The Big Picture
(outcomes = 1 – 4, 12)

*Weekly discussion sessions will address outcomes = 11 – 14

Course Text:

Readings for the course will be drawn from varied news and literature sources, and will include utilization of the ASU subscription to *The New York Times*.

Course Assignments:

To encourage a broad yet deep exposure to the many aspects and dimensions of American culture and its varied forms of expression, the assignments for the course have been crafted to capture this variety of experience and perspective. These assignments will include short weekly reports “from the front” where students most encounter this diversity (i.e., beyond the classroom), and these responses will be loaded onto Blackboard to serve as vehicles for Open Forum discussions. In relation to the preliminary outcomes of Open Forum discussions, instructors will tailor individual writing prompts to encourage an extended expression of unique experiences, with these prompts designed to create contact with varied cultural, artistic, ethical, political, and social perspectives. Finally, the synthetic in-class summation examinations are crafted to draw together the short responses, the open discussions, and the individual writing pieces into a broader context and will provide a foundation of final applied projects.

Grading Plan:

The following grading plan is typical of the course, but may be adjusted by the instructor of record to suit the needs of the students:

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

- Attendance and participation (lectures and discussions): 25%
- Weekly assignments: 50%
- Final project: 25%