

Course Outcomes Guide

Directions: Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

Course/Program Title: POL 204

Date: Fall 2014

Course/Program Team: Eric Schwartz

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: This course will assist the student to:

- A. Present analyses of issues and events that will be judged as competent by practitioners of international relations;
- B. define the historical dimensions of international relations;
- C. formulate a theoretical framework to analyze the unfolding panorama of contemporary international relations;
- D. assess the structure and functions of basic international and regional organizations;
- E. analyze, using a particular theory or combination of theories regarding international relations, a selected international issue or problem.

Assessment: (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?) Exam questions, class discussion, regular essay assignments.

Validation: (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

Many of the test questions are drawn from publisher-provided question banks, which provides a measure of external validation. Essays are assessed through standard processes of evaluation, with students urged to write accurate, concise, persuasive, and thorough essays. Furthermore, students are required to bring articles into class weekly, formulating questions that reflect the analytical framework utilized in international relations.

Results: (What do your assessment data show?) Standardized testing data has validated instruction in this course. Through term papers, students have shown that they have mastered research, writing and presentation skills. The use of current events discussion has allowed the class to observe the functioning of principles of international relations in the ongoing political and economic issues and conflicts.

Follow-up: (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

Continued and constant effort is required to ensure that students' improve their writing, research and comprehension skills. The requirement of current discussion has become more rigorous in the last two terms, with increasingly structured involvement from students.

Budget Justification: No additional resources are currently required.