

University of South Florida
Foundations of Knowledge and Learning Core Curriculum
Social and Behavioral Sciences
Assessment Rubric

Learning Outcome 7:	Students will demonstrate understanding of theories and models and ways they are used as unifying principles for explaining natural, social, and organizational phenomena, making predictions, and solving problems.				
Learning Outcome 8:	Students will demonstrate understanding of the scientific process, including hypothesis formulation and testing, identification of relevant variables, and evaluation of the appropriateness of experimental design.				
Learning Outcome 9:	Students will evaluate the credibility, use, and misuse of scientific and mathematical information in scientific and social developments and public policy issues.				
Criteria	4 Exemplary	3 Satisfactory	2 Minimal	1 Poor	Score
Understands how the scientific process in the social sciences can be used to examine the wide range of human social and/or biological variation.	Describes at least two examples of social science research on human social and/or biological variation; accurately describes the scientific processes employed in these studies, and demonstrates an understanding of the research findings and critically evaluates both methodology and the conclusions.	Identifies at least two examples of social science research on human social and/or biological variation; accurately describes the scientific processes employed in these studies, and demonstrates an understanding of the research findings.	Identifies at least two examples of social science research on human social and/or biological variation, but cannot accurately describe the scientific processes employed in these studies and cannot demonstrate an understanding of the research findings.	Cannot describe social science research on human social and/or biological variation.	
Understands the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and methods of the social sciences.	Designs a study that addresses a particular social science research question, demonstrating a thorough grasp of the methodology selected and includes a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology.	Distinguishes among different methodologies and selects an appropriate methodology for a particular question.	Recognizes different methodologies of social science research.	Unaware of the different methodological approaches of social science research.	
Understands the ethical considerations of applying scientific methods, including the protection of human subjects, professional conduct of research, and reporting scientific research in a way that is not misleading.	Identifies all ethical issues involved in protection of both human and non-human participants in social science research and the importance of reporting research findings in non-misleading ways.	Recognizes violations of confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent, but fails to understand issues of reporting results in non-biased ways.	Describes some but not all issues of confidentiality, privacy, informed consent in social science research.	Fails to describe any ethical issues in social science research.	