DESIGNATED COURSES: The department has identified the 21 courses as satisfying the learning outcomes of SUNY General Education category number 3:

- 21201 Macro-economics
- 21202 Micro-economics
- 22110 Human Geography
- 24101 U.S. Gov't. National
- 24102 U.S. Gov't. Local
- 24110 Intro. to Political Science
- 24220 International Relations
- 24130 Comparative Governments
- 25111 General Psychology I
- 25112 General Psychology II
- 25210 Social Psychology
- 26110 Social Problems
- 25121 Child Psychology
- 25122 Psych. of Adolescence
- 25206 Psych. of Adult. & Aging
- 27201 Introduction to Sociology
- 27202 American Society
- 27208 Human Evolution
- 27209 Arch. and Prehistory
- 27220 Cultural. Anthropology

LEARNING OUTCOMES: These courses will be assessed to determine if the students in them can demonstrate:

- an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis; and
- knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of the discipline of which the course is a part.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Initially, for ease of administration and evaluation, objective, short answer questions (e.g., multiple choice, matching, true/false) that test the learning outcomes will be developed. Eventually, a department committee will examine possible projects, papers and other activities that could be used as effective assessment tools.

During the spring 2002 semester, a department committee will continue to identify and refine a list of objective questions that test knowledge of the major concepts and models in each of the different disciplines. Questions that assess understanding of scientific method in the social sciences (including ideas such as empiricism, validity, correlation, etc.) and its application in the different disciplines will also be developed. These question sets will be given in all social science courses on the General Education list, either embedded in exams or administered separately near the end of the semester.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSESSMENT TOOLS: In academic year 2002/2003, the assessment question sets will be administered to all students in all sections of each social science general education course. The question sets from all of the sections of each course will be pooled. A minimum of 20% of each of these pooled question sets will be randomly selected for evaluation.
EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE: As the department committee completes its sets of assessment questions, it will determine standards of individual student performance. Most likely, it will be deemed that a student who gets 70% or more of the general education questions correct exceeds the standard for the criteria; one who gets 60-69% meets the standard, one at 50-59% approaches it, and one below 50% does not meet it. The frequency distribution of students in each of these categories will then be determined for each course.

These performance assessment data will be reviewed by the department and reported to the General Education Committee and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.