

# **Social Science Department**

## **AUP for Academic Year 2023-2024**

October 2022

---

## **Describe Department/Unit**

### **Connection to College Mission**

The mission of the Social Sciences Department is to promote student success and critical thinking by offering high quality course offerings that enable students to fulfill general education, major and transfer requirements through traditional and distance education. To accomplish this mission the department provides • Transfer, general education and major classes in all modes of delivery and at all sites, including Associates of Arts Transfer degrees in Anthropology and Psychology • Learning opportunities that develop ethical and effective citizenry • Working relationship with the Learning Resource Center (LRC), Learning Assistance Center (LAC), and Counseling.

---

## **Report on Improvements Made and Gaps Identified in the Prior Year**

### **Student Equity**

The Social Science department remains committed to the following efforts and goals in our continuous evaluation of how our department can reasonably and effectively lower or eliminate unnecessary barriers to learning:

- 1) lowering textbook costs across all of its offered classes and using OER resources as much as is feasible without undermining the instructional quality or rigor of the class.
- 2) improving the transparency of class and instructor expectations by working with instructors in the department on making sure their major behavioral, grading, late-work, discussion posting, and participation expectations/policies are clearly communicated in either their syllabus or class canvas pages, or in other similar forms easily and directly accessible to students.
- 3) Discussing and evaluating our late-work policies and our first & second week assignments so that students on financial aid and students with families have reasonable flexibility on due dates.

The process of working with adjunct faculty on these issues remains an incomplete one, but a department canvas page has been created with departmental policies and goals, and efforts are ongoing to connect all faculty, adjunct and full-time, to the department and its policies and initiatives, through the canvas page. The department and its canvas page also promulgate the departmental goals of lowering textbook costs to below \$50 for each course taught in the department, with the understanding that for some niche courses it might not be as of yet possible to lower costs while maintaining rigor and quality, and the goals of maintaining a canvas shell, checking in with students, and clear policies for student/instructor communication in the syllabus.

The student population category with the largest sample population that is showing a significant deficit in student success rates compared to the overall social science average success rate, is the economically disadvantaged. The department is continuing to try and lower non-tuition costs, be transparent with expectations, and reasonable flexibility with due dates, as a way to perhaps help mitigate this gap.

Very small sample sizes make deriving any meaningful analysis from race/ethnicity categories almost impossible. With that said, there has periodically been a gap between the success of female students when compared to class success rates of males in the department. This will be discussed during the department meetings for the academic year.

### **Outcomes Assessment: Loop-Back Improvements Made**

## **Actions taken in the prior academic year**

In the preceding academic year none of the departments completed assessments fell short of the department's 70% threshold for students meeting the requirement, which would indicate that improvement actions need to be taken.

## **Outcomes Assessment: Results of Last Year's Assessments**

**ANTH c141**

**ECON c103**

**HIST c118**

**HIST c209**

**PSYC c241**

**SOCI c161**

**Target Met?**

Yes

## **Outcomes Assessment: Missed Targets**

## **Outcomes Assessment: Schedule of This Year's Assessments**

ANTH c161 Native Peoples of North America

HIST c218 California History

HIST c209 History of Mexico

## **Program Review**

### **Last Year's Initiatives**

#### **Course rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies CSU requirements**

Phase One has been completed. ANTH c141 (not 151, which was a typo) and SOCI c210 (not c141, which was rejected by the state), have been successfully approved for Area F and put on the schedule for the Spring and Fall of 2023. HIST c131/131H and c132/132H have been submitted and approved to meet Area C Humanities requirement as well as Area D.

The department can now begin reviewing, modifying, and pursuing, Phase Two and Three.

---

## **Reminder of Initiatives for the Current Year**

### **Reminder of Initiatives for the Current Year**

#### **Course Rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies (Area F) requirements - continued**

---

# Plan Initiatives for Next Year

## Initiatives for Next Academic Year

### Course Rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies (Area F) requirements - continued

#### Is this part of a multiyear initiative?

Yes

#### Specific Action Steps to be Taken:

\* Due to the failure of our first attempts at submitting ANTH c141 and SOCI c151 for Area F., as well as that attempt revealing that the state hastily imposed this requirement on Community Colleges without giving anyone (including reviewers) enough time to settle on any real consensus about what they want from these Area F courses, the department has finally completed a delayed Phase One of this process by substituting SOCI c210 - Race and Ethnicity in Film - for SOCI c151. The department has now moved on to Phase Two and perhaps Phase Three, with some modifications, for this planning cycle.

#### Phase One: **COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY**

a) Create new Ethnic Studies (ETHN) courses as analogs for ANTH 151 (Native Peoples) and SOCI 210 (Race and Ethnicity in Film) so they can be cross-listed in order to provide students with at least two available options for the new required Area F Ethnic Studies requirement by Fall 2021

b) Revise HIST 131/131H and HIST 132/132H CoRs so that they can fulfill the Area C Humanities requirement or the Area D Social Science requirement depending on which is most useful for a given student.

#### Phase Two:

a) Begin a continuing dialogue within the Social Science department regarding our current and future elective offerings with the intention of arriving at consensus over which new courses should be created, which existing courses can and should be altered, and which existing courses may need to be eliminated, in order to offer a significant number of social science courses capable of fulfilling the new Area F requirement while also trying to limit the potential negative impact of this new requirement on Social Science electives and non ethnic studies student choices.

b) Create a new African American History course that meets the new Area F requirement while still satisfying expectations for an American History transfer course.

c) Revise other anthropology and sociology elective courses so that they can also satisfy the Area C Humanities requirement.

#### Phase Three:

a) Based on the departmental discussions and dialogue, create new courses and revise existing electives, as appropriate, to increase the college's ability to offer flexible options to students desiring to satisfy the new CSU Area F requirement.

b) Based on the departmental discussions and dialogue, eliminate any existing electives that are determined marginal due to a combination of enrollment history, lack of necessity for particular transfer degrees, and not being an option for Area F.

c) Revise long term schedule so that new courses are necessarily represented and spread out enough to allow students flexibility in the fulfillment of this new requirement

#### Early Observational Data, or "Lead" Measure(s):

Phase One - creation of new ETHN c141 and ETHN c210 CoRs with CiC approval, and revised HIST 131/131H and HIST 132/132H CoRs with CiC approval - **COMPLETED**

Phase Two - Discussion Agenda Item "Course offerings, alterations, and creations" will appear on departmental meeting agendas for each Fall and Spring flex day department meeting during the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 cycles. The meeting minutes will reflect that these discussions are actually taking place and focus on achieving the departmental goals of offering

students more options to satisfy Area F and also trying to evaluate our elective offerings more effectively. - **IN PROCESS**

Phase Three - Creation of at least one new Social Science elective CoR with CiC approval that meets Area F requirements. Also, revision of long term schedule to incorporate new courses while also incorporating the potentially increased demand for ANTH 151 and SOCI 141 - **IN PROCESS**

**Does the department request help developing these instruments?**

No

**Institutional Performance Data, or "Lag" Measure(s):**

The number of students successfully satisfying the new Area F requirement. Increased or perhaps even stabilizing enrollment and success rates in social science elective courses

**Person Responsible:**

All Full-Time Faculty with original assignment in Social Science

**Unit gap or institutional goals addressed:**

Other. Explain below

It addresses a newly created legislative mandate for CSU transfer that requires students satisfy a new Area F Ethnic Studies requirement before they can be certified for transfer to a CSU

---

## Evaluate Resource Needs

### Facilities

No Requests

### Information Technology

No Requests

### Marketing

No Requests

### Professional Development

No Requests

### Other Needs

No Requests

---

## Staffing Requests

### 1000 Category - Certificated Positions

#### Psychology/Sociology

**Location:**

No Location Specified

**Justification:**

Melissa Bowen is moving permanently into Human Services, which leaves a significant and noticeable gap in our ability to consistently offer PSYC courses at both IWV and TeH/ISEP at the same time. One psychology instructor for the most consistently enrolled discipline in social science, is untenable. This semester (fall 2022), the ISEP program had to cancel sections of PSYC in the ISEP program due to not being able to find an instructor. We need to replace Melissa with a new full-time faculty hire.

The department is still consistently offering 2 on-ground PSYC sections at IWV each semester. Combined with 6 online sections, 2 sections in Tehachapi, and 6 - 10 ISEP sections each semester. A faculty hire that can also teach sociology would create flexibility, allow Alec Griffin to cover lab sections and American Government sections in the ISEP program more often, and help ensure on-ground SOCI sections at both Tehachapi and IWV have a full-time faculty member building/maintaining retention and success rates in one of the most popular and populated academic disciplines.

**Ethnic Studies**

**Location:**

No Location Specified

**Justification:**

Ethnic Studies (Area F), is a new requirement being imposed on the college, and the department, from the state. As such there is no historical data for Ethnic Studies courses, students, or enrollments, as previously to a couple years ago there was no need for these courses.

Social Science now has two Ethnic Studies courses in the catalogue and plans on adding a third. At least one of these courses will need to be offered every semester in such a way that students from all sites have a reliable opportunity to take a class that fulfills the newly imposed Area F requirement for transfer to a CSU. The department anticipates the need for a full-time faculty member qualified in Ethnic Studies to cover these classes consistently. As well as to lead the newly imposed Area F element of social science. A hire that is qualified to instruct Ethnic Studies and Sociology courses would also allow the department to have a full-time faculty lead for Sociology.

**2000 Category - Classified Staff**