

## **From the GE Document:**

7. **Understanding Society** (e.g., Sociology/Anthropology, Economics and Business, Political Science, Communication Studies) Courses develop students' understanding of social phenomena analyzing and explaining a wide and varied range of human behavior and social institutions and practices. Students should recognize the dynamic interplay among individuals, societal infrastructure, and public policy intention and resultant activities. Students should also understand the processes of the political economy, the nature of technology and innovation as social phenomena, and the interaction of private enterprise and the public sector. Courses provide exposure to a breadth of literature regarding models or theories that explain social phenomena. Students will acquire competence to evaluate these phenomena through observation, data collection, and quantitative and qualitative analysis. Students should reflect on the applications of contemporary technological advances and their impacts on personal relationships, research methodologies, the inquiry process, and the accumulation and dissemination of new knowledge.

### **Interpretive Statement**

Ideally, these should be lower division courses. Upper division offerings often require a prerequisite foundation in terms of concepts, methodologies, and theoretical orientations. Upper division courses can be appropriate provided the instructor makes clear that students lacking an introductory level background in the discipline will not be disadvantaged. It is recommended that some course content reflect cross-cultural and comparative perspectives.

## **Understanding Society**

### **Core Objectives:**

- Students will have a basic understanding of social or cultural phenomena examining, in particular, basic social institutions such as: Family and Marriage, Religion, Education, Gender, Government, and the Economy.
- Students should be able to analyze social situations using a disciplinary framework such as economics or anthropology as a lens.
- Students will acquire basic competence to read studies and understand claims about social phenomena.

### **Desired Extensions:**

- Students should understand the processes of the political economy, the nature of technology and innovation as social phenomena, and the interaction of the private and the public spheres.
- Students should be able to identify ways in which gender and ethnicity play a role in social structures and access to resources.
- Students will recognize the dynamic interplay among individuals and societal structures, and public policy and practice, particularly as influenced by language choices.
- Students should reflect on the applications of contemporary technological advances and their impacts on personal relationships, research methodologies, the inquiry process, and the accumulation and dissemination of new knowledge.
- Students can identify instances and possible causes of inequity and stratification.