

Program Outcomes and Assessment

Degree Program: Political Science

Contact Person: Joe Corrado

Program Mission: The political science program places special emphasis on preparing students for community service, public service, law school, and graduate school to meet the expanding needs of South Metropolitan Atlanta.

Learning Outcomes

Graduating political science majors should:

Outcome 1: Apply concepts related to the structures and principles of the U.S. Constitution to historical and current politics.

Outcome 2: Explain and criticize U.S. political institutions and processes.

Outcome 3: Define and distinguish how aspects of the Georgia Constitution and government differ from the U.S. Constitution and government.

Outcome 4: Assess and compare how other national political systems and international political organizations differ from the U.S. political system and recognize the importance of political geography.

Outcome 5: Research and compose a project report in a subfield of political science.

Outcome 6: Successfully complete a political science related internship.

Assessments Methods/Types of Evidence

- POLS 1101 pre and post assessment surveys & geography tests
- POLS 4490/POLS 4491 Internship/Practicum Site Supervisor Evaluation
- POLS 4500 Senior Seminar research paper
- POLS 4500 Senior Political Science Program Exit Survey
- ETS Political Science Field Test taken by graduating seniors

Data Collection Overview

Learning Outcome	Assessment Method/Type of Evidence	When/Where will Data Collection Take Place	Who will collect data
Apply concepts related to the structures and principles of the U.S. Constitution to historical and current politics.	Pre and post assessment surveys for POLS 1101, ETS Political Science Field Test taken by graduating seniors, & POLS 4500 Senior Seminar research paper	During the Spring and Fall Semesters at Clayton State University	Dr. Corrado
Explain and Criticize U.S. Political Institutions and Processes	Pre and post assessment surveys for POLS 1101, ETS Political Science Field Test taken by graduating seniors, & POLS 4500 Senior Seminar research paper	During the Spring and Fall Semesters at Clayton State University	Dr. Corrado
Assess and compare how other national political systems and international political organizations differ from the U.S. political system and	POLS 1101 Geography tests, Pre and post assessment surveys for POLS 1101, ETS Political Science Field Test taken by graduating seniors, &	During the Spring and Fall Semesters at Clayton State University	Dr. Corrado

recognize the importance of political geography	POLS 4500 Senior Seminar research paper		
Research and compose a project in a subfield of political science	POLS 4500 Senior Seminar research paper	During the Spring and Fall Semesters at Clayton State University	Dr. Corrado
Successfully complete a political science related internship	POLS 4490/4491 Internship/ Practicum Site Supervisor Evaluation	During the Spring and Fall Semesters at Clayton State University	Dr. Corrado

Discussion of Results and Changes

The political science program underwent two department chair changes between 2006 and 2008. During this period of time, the department was in the process of trying to finalize their program outcomes and assessment plan. The program approved the outcomes in Fall 2008 and the current plan was enacted. To date, the following results and changes have occurred.

During the last two semesters, a Pre/Post survey of American and Georgia Politics was administered in POLS 1101. The results (see Table below) showed only marginal improvement from pre to post administration in overall terms; however, students still seemed to be having difficulty grasping certain essential factual and conceptual information pertaining to American government. As a result, in Summer 2009 we decided to adopt a new required text and redesign the course so students would have a better foundation of the prerequisite knowledge needed for subsequent courses. We will need to continue to track the survey results during the upcoming semesters to see if a further courses changes or revisions are required.

Table: POLS 1101 2009 Survey Results:

Semester	Pre-Survey Raw Score (max. 35)	Post-Survey Raw Score (max. 35)
Spring 2009	15	19.8
Fall 2009	16	20.5