**MODERN POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT PLAN**

**GENERAL EDUCATION AREA LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

**Behavioral and Social Sciences:**

Objectives for students completing the Behavioral and Social Sciences requirement are:

* to be able to use a variety of theories to explain human behavior;
* to be able to describe how the study of human behavior is founded on empirical/scientific observation;
* to be able to recognize the effects of the environment on individual behavior or recognize the effects of social institutions and processes on human interaction.

Upon completion of the General Education (GE) program, students will have had the opportunity and encouragement to develop thoughtful perspectives. They will have been exposed to and encouraged to explore both the cultural diversity that defines many human differences and the connections that suggest common human concerns.

The G E skill the faculty has chosen to emphasize in Modern Political Economy (MPE) is critical thinking. The course gives students four basic tools which may be used to critically analyze different issues. These tools are market demand and market supply analysis, production possibilities models, benefit-cost analysis, and aggregate demand and aggregate supply analysis.

Subjects discussed in MPE—such as the minimum wage, poverty, education, and unemployment—are social issues which cannot be separated from the issue of diversity. Government policies and programs are demonstrated to have differential impacts upon diverse groups. With respect to values, economists distinguish between *positive economics*—a discussion of “what is”—and *normative economics*—a discussion of “what ought to be.” Students are encouraged to form their own opinions concerning the relative social benefits and costs of different policies and programs. The question of the relative importance of efficiency, equity, and personal liberty is posed to students in each social policy context.

**Assessment Method: Pre- and Post-Testing**

The MPE faculty will create a short examination that will address the values and learning objectives of GE for social sciences, emphasizing critical thinking. The faculty will administer the exam at the beginning of the semester and again as part of the final examination.

**Measure:** Pre- and Post-test

**Benchmark:** The students’ mean score on the post-test will be statistically significantly higher than the students’ mean on the pre-test.

**Frequency:** Every semester MPE is offered.