

GER 3 — THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Proposed revision to the description of GER 3 criteria:

GER 3 courses are designed to introduce students to the systematic observation and analysis of human behavior and interaction. Social scientists observe, describe, analyze, and try to predict and explain human behavior, including psychological processes. GER 3 courses should teach students basic concepts, key theories and methods, and important findings of social science research. Where appropriate, they also explain the implications of social science findings for public policy.

Current GER 3 criteria:

GER 3 courses will expose students to the methodology, foundational concepts, theories, assumptions, uses, and limitations of present modes of inquiry in the social sciences; and to the analysis of social phenomena and/or the assessment of public policy alternatives. Social science is defined as the application of empirical methods (construed broadly) and/or mathematics to the description, explanation, or prediction of human behavior. "Human behavior" is taken to include social action and interaction, and psychological phenomena.

Courses in non-human behavior may satisfy GER 3 if they deal in substantial ways with human behavior.