

Cover Sheet for Program-level Student Learning Outcomes

Directions: For each program (e.g., degree, certificate, minor, secondary major, etc.) and level (undergraduate and graduate), please complete separate cover sheets. Feel free to make copies of this sheet if needed. Those graduate programs with an integrated master's and doctoral program may provide one set of cover sheets.

Department / Unit: College of Arts and Sciences; Political Science

Title of Academic Program: Certificate in the Study of Arts and Sciences Through Primary Texts

Faculty contact(s) for the list of student learning outcomes for this academic program:

Dr. Laurie M. Bagby, Director _____

Type of Degree (check one):

- Bachelor's Master's Ph.D. Ed.D.
 Certificate Minor Secondary major Associate
 Joint Degree (list the degree types): _____
 Other: _____

List of Student Learning Outcomes for this Degree Program

1. **Expose students to great works of literature.** The Primary Texts Certificate requires students to take eighteen hours of courses from our list. Most of these courses include primary works considered to be core texts in their disciplines. Students should exit the program, then, having been exposed to some of the classics in the fields they chose to study.
2. **Encourage more critical and skeptical consumption of information.** Citizens in the information age are forced to make constant judgments about the validity/trustworthiness of information and ideas. Challenging original works are multifaceted and impossible to summarize or easily categorize, making independent interpretation impossible to avoid. This experience will better prepare them to deal with the information and ideas that will continue to compete for their acceptance.

3. **Promote students' facility with the written word.** Being exposed to primary texts introduces students to the challenge of conveying original and/or powerful ideas in a clear and precise manner, promoting better writing as students recognize that challenge for themselves. Many lower and most upper level classes within the certificate program have a writing component which involves the development of good research and analytical skills. The program will also help students measure their improved ability to reason in writing through capstone paper.

4. **Encourage the ability to link ideas in various disciplines.** The program requires students to take primary texts courses in at least three disciplines. Students become better and more confident thinkers when they realize the interrelatedness of the disciplines in the arts and sciences. Reading primary texts provides students powerful categories with which to reason, and allows them to experience more continuity across subject matters. The capstone paper at the end of the program also provides students with an opportunity to think about those linkages.