

**St. Olaf College OLE Core General Education Curriculum
Social Sciences Requirement**

Description:

Students use social science approaches to better understand the complexity of human systems. The examination of these systems through theories and empirical evidence helps students understand their intersection with specific communities and/or the wider environment, while developing their ability to evaluate social science research.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Analyze social systems and human behavior within those systems.
2. Examine research methods and modes of gathering evidence.
3. Evaluate social science theories.

Course Guidelines:

1. Analyze social systems and human behavior within those systems.

This analytical work may focus on individual or group-level behavior, and may explore intersections between groups, systems, and structures. It may also focus on analyzing how social systems and human behavior influence one another.

2. Examine research methods and modes of gathering evidence.

This examination might include a wide range of approaches, either qualitative or quantitative, that help students learn to critically assess empirical evidence.

3. Evaluate social science theories.

Students will learn to evaluate and critique the strengths and limitations of discipline specific theories. Students will use theories to provide an analytical framework for evidence. Students will identify how systematic observations are used to evaluate and modify theories in an ongoing process of refinement.