

Curriculum Committee Resolution 23/24-11

Date: March 7, 2024

To: St. Olaf Faculty

From: Curriculum Committee

Re: Modifications to the Intended Learning Outcomes of the Social Sciences OLE Core Requirement

At the March 14, 2024 Faculty Meeting, the Curriculum Committee will move that the faculty approve the following modifications for the Social Science ILOs. If approved, this change will go into effect for the 2024-2025 academic year.

| <u>Current SCS ILOs:</u> Students will: | <u>Proposed revisions to SCS ILOs:</u> Students will: |
|--|---|
| 1. Analyze social systems and human behavior within those systems. | 1. Analyze social systems and human behavior within those systems. (no changes) |
| 2. Examine research methods and modes of gathering evidence. | 2. Identify social science research methods or theories. |
| 3. Evaluate social science theories. | |

Rationale:

During the summer scoring workshop, it became apparent that asking students to “evaluate social science theories” was beyond what is learned by students taking a single, introductory course in social science. To “evaluate” requires sophisticated understanding, as it is one of the higher levels in Bloom’s taxonomy. It is more appropriate to expect students taking a single SCS course to be able to identify social science theories. Furthermore, most of the courses that carry the SCS attribute are taught at the 100- and 200-level.

In addition, we recommend combining ILO2 and ILO3 into a single statement that allows for flexibility. Learning can focus on research methods *or* theories. This allows for variation between disciplines. Some disciplines introduce theories in introductory courses, while others focus first on research methods. By combining the ILOs into a single statement, courses can address the ILO regardless of discipline.