

## Annual Report on Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

**Program:** Division of Social Sciences

**Program Contact and Title:** Associate Professor John McGrath,  
eldraque@bu.edu

**College/School Contact and Title:** Natalie McKnight, Dean *ad interim*

John Regan, Senior Lecturer, Undergraduate Assessment Committee member

1. List the learning outcomes for the program (if you are new to program assessment, you might want to begin with 3-5 primary outcomes):

The Social Sciences Division presents a sequence of courses that promote students' understanding of modern society. Through a combination of varied readings, lectures, and discussions, students gain an understanding of the social world they inhabit, how it came into existence, and America's role in it. Unlike the other CGS divisions Social Science presents a unified curriculum across all teams. Each year, our professors, who have varied backgrounds and interests in social sciences and history incorporate new elements into the curriculum to keep it fresh and exciting.

The Social Science courses address the significant requirements set out in CGS's "Assessment Rubric." All courses require a variety of assessment tools including essay and objective examinations, as well as research papers and projects thereby contributing to the students' progress in enhancing communications skills. The international focus of the curriculum both builds awareness of the impact of historical forces and requires students to appreciate the cultural contexts that drive today's global society. As our students acquire and employ our interdisciplinary approach, they must hone their analytical skills and develop new perspectives on the world. They acquire both the content that is essential to being a twenty-first century citizen and the ability to examine it using different intellectual approaches. Perhaps most importantly, our students learn to appreciate that they live in a complex, changing world that demands serious effort in order to understand it.