

**Marquette University  
Learning Assessment Plan**

**Political Science**

**Major: Political Science**

Degree: B.A.

Date Submitted: December 20, 2005; resubmitted April 30, 2006

<b>Program Learning Outcomes Students are able to:</b>	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Use of the Information</b>
<p>1. Reflect on and articulate the broad purposes of political life, in light of various theoretical understandings of those purposes among different thinkers and in different communities across time.</p>	<p>1. The student can identify various conceptions of the fundamental ends of politics and of the polity as well as the political thinkers who have stressed these ends. 2. The student can compare and contrast multiple traditions of political thought (especially “ancient” and “modern” traditions) regarding the broad purposes of political life (for example, the common good, justice, liberty, peace and security).</p>	<p>Analytical essays (at the beginning and end of the political science major) written in (a) majors-only section of an introductory course and (b) senior experience course for majors. These essays will be evaluated using the following criteria: precision and depth in the description of ideas, coherence in the presentation of ideas, and scope or comprehensiveness of the descriptions. Two faculty members will review these essays and apply the criteria independently.</p>	<p>Director of Undergraduate Studies (as assisted by faculty as described in narrative).</p>
<p>2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic political institutions and processes, domestic and international, in light of major competing theories of politics.</p>	<p>1. The student can identify American and other nation-state governmental structures and the distribution of functions among their parts. 2. The student can identify the processes employed for the selection of rulers in the United States and other nation-states. 3. The student can identify structures and processes for interaction among nation-states.</p>	<p>Analytical essays (at the beginning and end of the political science major) written in (a) majors-only section of an introductory course and (b) senior experience course for majors. These essays will be evaluated using the following criteria: precision and depth in the description of ideas, coherence in the presentation of ideas, and scope or comprehensiveness of the descriptions. Two faculty members will review these essays and apply the criteria independently.</p>	<p>Director of Undergraduate Studies (as assisted by faculty as described in narrative).</p>

<p>3. Demonstrate the ability to employ analytical, research and writing skills as appropriate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The student can identify and use the appropriate methods to study various questions of politics.</li> <li>2. The student can identify and describe accurately central political concepts, describe relationships among them, identify important implications of them, and construct coherent arguments based on them.</li> <li>3. The student can express ideas in writing that meets basic general standards of proper English grammar and accurately conveys his intended meaning.</li> </ol>	<p>Analytical essays (at the beginning and end of the political science major) written in (a) majors-only section of an introductory course and (b) senior experience course for majors. These essays will be evaluated using the following criteria: precision and depth in the description of ideas, coherence in the presentation of ideas, and scope or comprehensiveness of the descriptions. Two faculty members will review these essays and apply the criteria independently.</p>	<p>Director of Undergraduate Studies (as assisted by faculty as described in narrative).</p>
---	---	---	--