

Rationale for selecting GOVT 2302 as Tier 3 course

1. Tier 3 is designed to provide students intellectual practice making connections between disciplines and domains that are usually learned in isolation. The course(s) should be broad and global enough to draw from the entire scope of the core. Topics listed for inclusion in GOVT 2302 -civil rights and liberties, domestic policies, foreign relations and national defense – provide this broad, global context. The THECB states that “a core curriculum should contain courses that provide multiple perspectives about the individual and the world in which he or she lives; that stimulate a capacity to discuss and reflect upon individual, political, and social aspects of life so students understand ways in which to exercise responsible citizenship; and that enable students to integrate knowledge and understand the interrelationships of the disciplines.” The selection of GOVT 2302 as an Integrative Learning course addresses multiple aspects of this stated goal.
2. Unlike other domains in the core where it’s important to show the diversity of disciplines that the Big Idea addresses in that domain, Tier 3 should provide insight into the nature of an INTEGRATIVE experience. An Integrative experience should help students develop the capacity to make and evaluate useful connections between ideas that they encountered in different courses in Tier 1 and 2.
3. The cluster of courses, labeled CB040 (Core, page 10), were identified as better options by several individuals (see pages 59-65 in the Response to Discipline Committees and Individuals) for a Tier 3, Integrative Learning experience. It was suggested that these courses replace GOVT 2302 (GOVT 2302 would be moved to Tier 2) or move to Tier 3 with GOVT 2302. The cluster of courses, labeled CB040, contains some courses that are inappropriate for an integrative experience, including most of the Foreign Language courses. Inappropriate courses would have to be removed from the Core, or retained as CB041 courses in Tier 2, which would add 3 hours to the Core.
4. Current enrollment patterns indicate that GOVT 2302 is one of the last courses taken by Core completers.
5. The Government District Discipline committee supports GOVT 2302 as a Tier 3 course. (See pages 19-20 in the Response to Discipline Committees and Individuals).

Benefits of selecting GOVT 2302 as Tier 3 Course

1. Fostering integrative learning will require professional development for all faculty teaching core courses and the formation of an interdisciplinary team to help design, implement and disseminate integrative strategies and activities. In the near future, it will be easier to foster, encourage and support integrative learning in a single course, rather than a broad list of courses and a larger pool of faculty.

2. Assessing the intellectual competencies of Core completers will be more effective if assessment instruments can be designed for a single course. Developing, administering, and scoring multiple instruments to assess intellectual competencies in a broad array of courses are time consuming and labor intensive. Correlating data from multiple instruments is also challenging.
3. Currently the number of Core completers is a small percentage of the total enrollment. Assessing Core completers in a broad array of courses necessitates conducting assessments in all sections of these courses. Pilot assessments of Intellectual Competencies in multiple courses at Richland College captured very low numbers of students in each section, usually only 1-5 students. Assessing Core completers in a single required course will increase the numbers of students assessed per section.