

Syllabus Goals vs. Objectives

Goals are general statements about what you hope students will gain from your course such as, “Students will gain an understanding of ...” or, “Students will develop an appreciation of ...”

Examples of Course Goals:

- a) This course has three specific aims: (1) to introduce students to the range of research methods available to chemistry; (2) to help students learn how to develop good questions and choose methods to best answer these questions, and (3) to encourage the development of analytical skills that enable you to evaluate the quality of your own and others scholars’ research.
- b) The course is a general introduction of one of the four fields of anthropology: sociocultural anthropology... The goals of this course are 1) to introduce students to basic concepts and methods of sociocultural anthropology, 2) to deepen students’ understanding of diverse social and cultural practices, 3) to encourage students to critically reflect on their own cultural assumptions.

Objectives are more specific statements that include both an action verb and a content reference. They can be assessed through class activities and assignments.

Examples of Course Objectives:

- Develop an interesting and important research question
- Explain and define basic anthropological methods and terminology introduced in the course
- Analyze and evaluate the quality of research of other scholars
- Compare and contrast different subsistence systems of different cultures
- Analyze some cultural practices by using anthropological methods and concepts

It may be helpful to list objectives by units of the course and assignments.

For example:

The objectives for Week One are:

- To define and apply key anthropological terms about marriage and kinship
- To apply these concepts to examine you own relationships and kinship