General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Comm 41: Critical Decision Making  GE Area: A3-Critical Thinking

Results reported for AY: 2014 – 15  # of sections 27  # of instructors: 11

Course Coordinator: Kathleen McConnell  email: kathleen.mcconnell@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Deanna Fassett  College: Social Sciences

Instructions: Each year, the department will prepare a brief (two page maximum) report that documents the assessment of the course during the year. This report will be electronically submitted by the department chair to the Office of Undergraduate Studies with an electronic copy to the home college by September 1 of the following academic year.

Part 1

To be completed by the course coordinator:

(1) What SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

Students will be able to locate and evaluate sources, through library research, and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation.

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?

Students seem unaware of the reasons for citation conventions and strict style guidelines. Students are having trouble identifying credible sources. Students are also struggling with searching for sources beyond the major online search engines (e.g., Google). Instructors who are developing hybrid versions of COMM 41 are having to adapt their in-class research activities for an online environment.

(3) What modifications to the course, or its assessment activities or schedule, are planned for the upcoming year? (If no modifications are planned, the course coordinator should indicate this.)

Instructors developed a number of new assignments and activities to boost student understanding of citations, credibility, and APA:

1) Increased a source comparison from two sources of information to four sources of information.

2) Incorporated an annotated bibliography homework assignment.
3) Developed a “How to Evaluate Information” worksheet.

4) Created “How to cite” trivia questions with option for extra credit.

5) Posted on Canvas samples of past student papers.

Instructors continue to develop their online, hybrid courses and several instructors plan to incorporate a library tutorial to substitute for workshops previously done in the classroom.

Part 2

To be completed by the department chair (with input from course coordinator as appropriate):

(4) Are all sections of the course still aligned with the area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?

Yes, the course coordinator and instructors are doing an excellent job keeping the goals, SLOs, content, support, and assessment consistent across sections. Regular communication between the coordinator and instructors and between the instructors maintains continuity within and across sections.

(5) If this course is in a GE Area with a stated enrollment limit (Areas A1, A2, A3, C2, D1, R, S, V, & Z), please indicate how oral presentations will be evaluated with larger sections (Area A1), or how practice and revisions in writing will be addressed with larger sections, particularly how students are receiving thorough feedback on the writing which accounts for the minimum word count in this GE category (Areas A2, A3, C2, D1, R, S, V, & Z) and, for the writing intensive courses (A2, A3, and Z), documentation that the students are meeting the GE SLOs for writing.

We cap enrollment in Comm 41 to 25 students, allowing instructors to add only two students beyond the cap. Since we do not offer larger sections, students are able to receive thorough feedback and engage in practice and revisions of their writing within the current configuration of the course and workload of the instructors.