General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: PHYS 01
GE Area: B1

Results reported for AY: 14-15  
# of sections: 5  
# of instructors: 2

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Department Chair:  Michael Kaufman  
College: Science

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 to <curriculum@sjsu.edu>, by the department chair, to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, with an electronic copy to the home college by October 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?

SLO 1 - Students should be able to use the methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations.

This SLO is embedded in most of the course material, including lectures, for example on (1) how Galileo was able to show that Aristotle’s belief in objects falling at different rates was scientifically disprovable, and (2) confronting their own explanation for motion in light of Newton’s Laws. Example are also in nearly every homework assignment throughout the semester. SLO1 form the major basis of the course.

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

There were 232 students registered in the 5 sections. Of these, more than 2/3 of the demonstrated an improved and/or basic skill in using the scientific method to question existing explanations. 50% demonstrated more than basic understanding, and of those nearly 10% showed strong understanding of how to apply SLO 1 to a wide variety of problems.

(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.)

Evidence shows that student group interaction improve the depth of their understanding. Students are hungry for more group questions, and don’t even want to leave the class because they are so deeply engaged. We plan to increase the number of these group exercises (from 7 to 10).

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?

All sections of the course still aligned with the area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment