General Education Annual Course Assessment Form
Course Number/Title _____Biol 20, Ecological Biology__________ GE Area _B2 & B3____

Results reported for AY _____2017-2018______ # of sections _2 lectures, 7 labs_ # of instructors __5__

Course Coordinator: ___Stephanie Trewhitt____ E-mail: ___stephanie.trewhitt@sjsu.edu____

Department Chair: __Dr. Jeffrey Honda_________________ 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?
   GE 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.

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?
   In order to assess GE SLO 1, in the Fall of 2017 and Spring of 2018, students were required to write a paper on an ecological topic in which they looked at the methods used in the primary research papers and used the knowledge they had derived from current scientific inquiry to question the existing explanations of their topic. Also, in the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 students were given lab assignments during the semester, asking specific questions about the use of scientific methods and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations. One other parameter that was used to assess students on the mastery of the GE SLO 1 during the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters was exams that tested their knowledge on how scientific inquiry in life or physical science is used to question existing explanations of ecological concepts and issues. Of the 56 enrolled students in the Fall 2017 semester, 39% mastered this outcome at a high level, 43% demonstrated average proficiency, 9% demonstrated marginal proficiency, and 9% were not proficient. During the Spring 2018 semester, of the 80 enrolled students, 57% mastered this outcome at a high level, 25% demonstrated average proficiency, 7% demonstrated marginal proficiency, and 11% were not proficient.
(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.)

Updates to the text book and current issues are being used to enhance the learning experience for the students stressing the science, current real-life issues surrounding ecological concepts and provides current solutions being implemented to help solve the issues. Providing real examples that are in the news about the concepts presented in the text book allows students to see their direct connection to the issues and offers suggestions on how students can make a different in the future. Labs and fieldtrips are updated to continue to enhance the student’s understanding of the science and current issues. Students are also experiencing real world solutions to the issues through field trips to local businesses and nature reserves, which show the science and solutions in action.

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

(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.

N/A