General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Biology 21, Human Biology         GE Area: B2 & B3

Results reported for: AY 2015-2016    # of sections: 2    # of instructors: 1

Course Coordinator: Mary Poffenroth       E-mail: mary.poffenroth@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Dr. Jeff 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?

   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?

   SLO1 was assessed in a variety of ways. As this course is a B2 and B3, we have an in person, hands on weekly lab. Students fared very well in this interactive and kinetically involved portion with over 90% of the class of 380 students achieving a mastery of a C or better.

   SLO1 was also assessed in a 5 stage writing assignment that culminated in a 1500 word literature review paper. In this project students had to use current scientific peer reviewed literature to illustrate the connections between a major environmental problem and human health. In this assessment, students fared less well than in lab, which is to be expected due to its complex nature. 71% of students in the course were able to achieve a mastery of a C or above.

(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.)

   The course has been taken over by a new part-time faculty member with the guidance of Dr. Elizabeth McGee who has extensive knowledge of the course. I expect there will be many changes to the course in AY 16-17.

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.

This course is an Area B2/B3 course that has a total enrollment of 400 students. We typically break up the assignments by lab sections and utilize ISA to help with grading assignments that are rubric based.