General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title __NuFS-16: Science, Physiology, Nutrition__ GE Area ___B2_______________

Results reported for AY __2015-2016____________  # of sections __4___  # of instructors __2__

Course Coordinator: ___Judi Morrill__________________ E-mail: __morrill@stanford.edu_____________

Department Chair: ___Lucy McProud_______________ College: _Applied Sciences and Arts___________

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 GELO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

GELO-2: Students should be able to demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues.

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

The culminating research paper was the primary means of assessing GELO-2. The students were required to gather reliable information and think critically on a course-related topic that included societal, political, and/or moral issues. Examples: (1) e-cigarettes: effect on health, prevalence among young adults, political influence and marketing by tobacco companies. (2) Obesity in the U.S.: increased prevalence; variance by ethnicity, socioeconomic groups; cultural aspects; health effects; causes; prevention; role of government; pros and cons of taxing sugared drinks. (3) Effect of climate change on food insecurity: whose responsibility; promise of genetically modified crops to adapt to climate change; public opposition to GMOs (genetically modified organisms); world hunger, rich vs. poor countries. Of the 162 students assessed, 40% mastered GELO-2 at a high level (90+%), 35% at a moderately high level (80-89%), 14% at an average level (70-79%), and 11% at a marginal level (69% or less).

There were class activities that addressed this GELO-2. For example, on the topic of controversial issues in clinical trials, a real-life clinical trial of a cancer drug for melanoma was presented in all sections, in which two cousins were subjects, one with health insurance, one without, one with children, one without, one admitted to the trial later because his melanoma was not severe enough, one survived the trial, the other did not. The students each submitted an index card on which they wrote their opinion on the fairness to participants, and other aspects of clinical trials and the subsequent cost and availability of approved drugs. The opinions were very thoughtful, though varied, of course. The opinions were not graded; everyone was given class-participation points.
(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.)

There are no modifications planned at this time. However, the instructors meet before and after each semester to discuss the course, and continually communicate by email during each semester, e.g., to share links to course-related short videos to show in class.

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 (GELOs), 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 GELOs for writing.

n/a