General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: ENGL 71: Introduction to Creative Writing  
GE Area: C2

Results reported for AY: 2016-17  
# of sections: 13  
# of instructors: 11

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Department Chair: Noelle Brada-Williams  
College: Humanities and the 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 SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?
   SLO 2: Letters courses will enable students to respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses.

2. What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?
   An appropriate outcome to measure in an entry-level Creative Writing course is how well students write a personal response to a significant literary work. The ability to produce an original work of creative writing modeled upon another work depends upon the student’s ability to critically analyze and understand the significant work(s) used as a model.

   SLO 2 was assessed based upon the quality of the students’ work produced in a common assignment, which requires the students to personally respond to significant works (“Self-Portrait” poems by Adam Zagajewski, Linda Pastan, Edward Hirsch, and Gregory Pardlo). Each participating instructor assessed a sample of 10 of their students’ works of creative writing written in response to the common prompt. The results for AY 2016-17 are as follows:

   Failed (to meet standards for the assignment): 9 students; 8 percent  
   Meets (standard for the assignment): 46 students; 42 percent  
   Exceeds (standards for the assignment): 55 students; 50 percent  
   SAMPLE SIZE: 110 Students

The SLO 2 outcomes measured from the samples used are relatively uniform from section to section, within reasonable statistical variation. It would appear this is a fair assessment of student outcomes, which also correlates to grades, where students must achieve a “C” or higher to meet GE course standards and receive credit for the course. Our conclusion is that the course is successful in facilitating student success in meeting SLO 2. The faculty teaching ENGL 71 will continue to use this common assignment to assess SLO 2 in future semesters.
(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.)

We do not plan any modification to the course next year. The ENGL 71 faculty had engaged in an email conversation starting at the beginning of the Fall 2017 term to determine what modifications if any should be made to the compulsory Self-Portrait writing exercise that is used as a common assignment for assessment of the ENGL 71 course.

APPENDIX 1: SLO 2 Assessment Data

APPENDIX 2: Common ENGL 71 Assessment Assignment Prompt
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?

(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.