General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title  RELS 70A/Western Religions  GE Area  C2

Results reported for AY  15-16  # of sections: 2  # of instructors: 1 (Rue)

Course Coordinator: Jennifer Rycenga  E-mail: Jennifer.rcenga@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Shannon Rose Riley, Humanities  College: Humanities 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?

Respond to significant works that illuminate enduring human concerns 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?

The students participate in dramatic re-enactments of the Sarah/Hagar/Ishamel/Isaac narrative from the Hebrew Bible, in conjunction with later ideas on this story from Rabbinic, Christian and Muslim commentary. This gives the students a self-reflexive lens into the human situations, and divine/human interactions, that shape the scriptural heritage of the western religions. Their writing on this mythic theme continues across the semester as well, so that students are weaving their personal responses with research and critical perspectives. Students respond enthusiastically to these exercises, and acknowledge learning from multiple perspectives as a result of this ongoing assignment.

(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.)

No modifications are necessary at this time for this course. Professor Rue’s success with this course content and form are far above satisfactory: they are paradigmatic for teaching religion in the 21st century, with relevance and historic depth.

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?

(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.