General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Geog 010  
GE Area: D1

Results reported for AY 2017-2018  
# of sections: 5  
# of instructors: 2

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Department Chair: Lynne Trulio  
College: Social Sciences

Instructions: 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.

Part 1 To be completed by the course coordinator:

(1) What GELO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?
   GELO 4: Students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?
   We assessed 190 students using either:
   a) a research paper whose topic was: Choose an indigenous culture in the world to research. Students were required to describe who these people are, where they are located, and what is unique about them. Three pages of writing were required in addition to the map, photo, and references; or
   b) a short answer exam question which was: Describe how Universalizing and Ethnic religions differ in their origin, diffusion, and distributions. Include how environmental factors contribute to these differences.

   Students did well on these assignments. Of these students, 73% earned an A or B, 24% earned a C and 3% received a D or F.

   One instructor stated, "I am very careful to coach my students to earn good grades in the course. If I see that a student is missing assignments or struggling, I send them a private message and prompt them to let me know if there’s anything I can do to help them remember to complete assignments and/or complete the assignments more successfully...There’s always the few that say they got busy and/or forgot to complete the assignment. I do offer one extra credit assignment, so they can make-up lost points there." The other instructor stated that students did well on the exam question because an entire lecture was devoted to the topic.

   Some students struggled with meeting the requirements of the research paper (too short in length, not properly cited and formatted references, etc.), but the instructor coaches them to earn good scores by providing a clear 2-page paper guidelines document with examples of properly cited and formatted references; those that did not do well usually admit that they waited until the last minute to complete it, despite my reminder emails and announcements. Students who did poorly on the exam question had not attended the lecture for the topic.

(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.)
   One instructor plans to add a requirement to specifically touch on the behaviors of the people they are researching would bring us even closer to the GELO description. The other instructor plans to add specific examples to illustrate the topic.
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, all sections are aligned with area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (GELOs), Content, Support, and Assessment.

(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.

We cap this class at 40, the student enrollment limit set by the 2014 GE Guidelines.