General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Sociology 1: Introduction to Sociology  GE Area: D1

Results reported for AY 2015/2016  # of sections: 7  # of instructors: 5

Course Coordinators: Dr. Amy Leisenring and Dr. Susan Murray  E-mail: amy.leisenring@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Dr. Carlos Garcia  College: Social 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, 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 4: Students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

There were a total of 449 students enrolled in this course in the academic year that was assessed.

SLO 4 was measured by giving a sample of these students (40) an assignment where they were asked to consider the ways that they had been socialized into gender throughout their life. Specifically, the students were required to discuss two agents of socialization important to the development of their gender identity, the messages that they received from these agents of socialization, and the ways in which they responded to these messages (in other words, how the messages that they received impacted their behavior.)

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

A high percentage of students who completed the exercise (83% of the students in the course) demonstrated mastery of the GELO. Seventy percent of the students demonstrated a mastery of “excellent” of the GELO, 18% percentage of the students demonstrated a mastery of “acceptable” of the GELO, and 12% of the students demonstrated a mastery of “poor” of the GELO.

(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 planned at this time.

Part 2

To be completed by the department chair (with input from course coordinator as appropriate):
Yes, all sections of the course are still aligned with the area Goals, (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment.

As an GE Area D1 course, this class has an enrollment limit of 40. However, larger sections of 120 students are regularly offered. We employ graduate student teaching assistants in this course to give additional one-on-one support to our students. While we understand the concern about class-size, this arrangement enables the students to receive more support from the instructor – not less. By teaching one 120 person lecture class, rather than three 40 person lecture classes, the instructor has 5 additional hours in the week to meet with and evaluate the work of those 120 students. The pedagogical style used in this course is the same regardless of class size. The students do in-class active learning exercises, small group discussions, film analysis, peer writing reviews, and all class discussions.

In the section with large enrollments, students are required to turn in a complete draft of their 1500 word paper approximately 11 weeks into the semester. All the papers of all the students are then read, given detailed written feedback, and graded by the instructor. These papers are returned to the students one week later. All of the students in the class then face the decision of whether or not to rewrite their papers based on the written feedback each student received.