General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: History 10B
GE Area: D2

Results reported for AY 2014-2015
# of sections: 1 in S15
# of instructors: 1 in S15

Course Coordinator/Instructor: Robert Cirivilleri
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Department Chair: Patricia Evridge Hill
College: Social Sciences

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 1: Students will be able to place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

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

I assessed SLO 1 using embedded questions, both multiple-choice and essay, within three midterm exams and a final exam. In addition, I employed in-class quizzes based on the assigned chapters from the primary text, The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures, Volume II. The students were given a solid chronological foundation of the key cultural, social, and political events, figures and trends in the development of Western societies from the Renaissance to the present by means of lecture and assigned readings. I used the in-class quizzes as a basis for class discussion on focused topics related to SLO 1. For instance, the lecture and discussion on the French Revolution focused on the birth of modern nationalism and how the French Revolution became a model for subsequent revolutions in other countries in the name of nationalism. The exams were intended to measure overall student comprehension of each of the contexts stated in SLO 1, for that section of the class. The discussions were designed to demonstrate how those social, cultural, intellectual, economic, and political aspects in Western society have impacted contemporary events, institutions, and trends. Student performance on the midterm exams and final averaged in the 80-82 percentile, while chapter quizzes were slightly higher (85 percentile). I have switched from a two-midterm format to a three-midterm format, which has seen an improvement in student scores. This testing format covers less time and material for each exam, which enables students to retain information more effectively.

(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.)
I have found the current structure of the course to be successful in achieving the desired student learning objectives. However, I plan to incorporate additional primary source material in the form of short monographs in order to more narrowly focus on key historical events or persons and demonstrate how they serve as micro-history, that is, isolated events that exhibit patterns that cause the phenomenon to recur again and again throughout history when similar conditions are present. An example of this would be a collection of primary source material related to the French Revolution that could be used as a comparative model to more recent revolutions.

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? 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 SLOs for writing. NA