General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: SOCI 80: Social Problems
GE Area: D3

Results reported for AY ___2017-2018___
# of sections: 5 (includes two double section of 118 and 116 students)  
# of instructors: 4

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Department Chair: Carlos Garcia
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, by the department chair, to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, with an electronic copy to the home college by September 15 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?

Learning Objective 4: Students will be able to evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

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

As regards SLO4, assessment using course activities, in-class discussions, term papers and in-class exams reveal that approximately 80% of students were able to “evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.” Particularly useful in achieving this success were discussions and assignments focused on the sociological imagination, understanding different types of sociological data, and analyzing contemporary news articles and current events using sociological concepts. One professor based her assessment on the performance of students writing of a series of sociological analyses of current news articles. In a cultural moment of polarization and attacks on the media, students were asked to read, evaluate, analyze, and discuss news articles from The New York Times. In doing this, students are applying the concepts they learn in class to real world current events. In addition, by encouraging respectful discussion of various viewpoints – sociological and personal- on social issues, students are encouraged to expand their critical thinking skills.
Instructors also reported using video clips, discussions of reading quantitative and qualitative data, and news articles on current events as a way to get students to discuss issues around social change and social continuity. In particular instructors used current events surrounding issues of racism, state violence, sexual assault, immigration, and poverty to apply sociological concepts and interrogate multiple points of view.

Lessons learned in conducting this assessment include the continued need to strive to integrate all aspects of the course so that students are able to continue to make connections between the course material and the social contexts in which they live.

(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 major modifications are planned for the upcoming year.

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?

Yes

(5) If this is a course in a GE Area with a stated enrollment limit, please indicate how practice and revisions in writing will be addressed in larger sections, particularly how students are receiving feedback on the writing which accounts for the minimum word count in this GE category.

Most sections of SOCI 80 are capped at 40 students however each semester one section of 120 students is offered. To address the large sections instructors are given additional assigned time that is used to increase meeting time with students during office hours. In addition, an ISA is assigned to the course to provide instructional support.