General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Biology 101
GE Area: R

Results reported for AY: 2017-2018
# of sections: 6
# of instructors: 2

Course Coordinator: Sulekha Anand
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Department Chair: Jeff Honda
College: 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 September 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 3: A student should be able to apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment.

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

In 4 sections of the course, students used SJSU’s library databases to locate and analyze a primary research article on either the conservation or ecology of a primate species. This assignment complements a larger assignment in which students visit the San Francisco Zoo and then research in depth seven different species in residence at the zoo. In their analysis of the primary research article, students must be able to identify the paper’s hypothesis, describe how the hypothesis was tested and whether it was supported or refuted, and explain the implications for of the research study. Of the 139 students enrolled in four sections, 29% failed to achieve this objective; 31% marginally achieved this objective; and 40% mastered this objective.

In 2 sections of the course, students completed a laboratory activity on methods and limits of morphometric analysis in studying human evolution in which they performed a morphometric analysis of Hominid skulls. For the analysis, students must make measurements on skull models, record data, perform calculations on the data, and prepare individual lab reports. A discussion of the strengths and limits of morphometric follows. Of the 60 students enrolled, 7% failed to achieve this objective; 30% marginally achieved this objective; and 63% mastered this objective.

Overall, 47% of students in Bio 101 mastered SLO 3, 31% of students marginally achieved SLO 3, and 22% of students failed to achieve SLO 3.

(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.)

The instructions and guidance for the primary research article assignment are continually modified to teach more students how find and use electronic scholarly resources. There are no planned modifications for the laboratory activity on morphometric analysis.
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 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.

N/A