General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Biology 110: Biodiversity and Biopolitics

GE Area: R : Earth and Environment

Results reported for AY: 2016-2017

# of sections: 1
# of instructors: 1

Course Coordinator: Phillip Hawkins
E-mail: phillip.hawkins@sjsu.edu

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 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?

SLO3: Students will be able to apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the Earth and Environment.

SLO3: Students will be assessed by written exams based on presented material and field observations.

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

In Biology 110, students spend 75% of the class in lecture and discussion on topics such as: climate change and its effects on global species decline, invasive species introduction that effect local biodiversity by competing with native species, habitat destruction due to urbanization and its effects on the biodiversity of local stream (riparian) habitat, biodiversity of aquatic insect larvae as a measure of stream health (water quality), and the introduction of factors that affect ecosystem trophic dynamics, such as anthropogenic alteration primary production acting as a limiting factor in ecosystems. Other topics assessed by exams are factors that initiate trophic cascades which diminish biodiversity such as species loss due to poaching, pollution and commerce. Students are also expected to be familiar with statutory laws and congressional acts that serve to protect the environment as well as biodiversity. These topics include but not limited to: Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and locally the Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) chartered with regulating development (thus protecting) the ecosystem of San Francisco Bay.

Of the 15 students assessed by written exams, 33% mastered SLO 3 at a high level (90% or better), 47% demonstrated average proficiency of SLO 3 (75% to 89%), 14% demonstrated marginal proficiency of SLO 3 (70 to 72%), and 6% were not proficient in SLO 1 (less than 70%).
(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):

(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.

Presently, this issue not applicable to our courses in Biological Sciences. Of the above areas listed, we have courses in Area R, S, and Z. None of these courses have sections over the 40 maximum students as mandated by University policy and are receiving adequate feedback. Area R may require more student demand in the future, however, we envision adding more sections rather than making larger sections. Area Z is capped at 25 students: our syllabi should demonstrate that students are meeting GE SLOs for writing as assignments are clearly documented.