General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: EnvS 152, Globalization and the Environment  
GE Area: Area R

Results reported for 2015-2016  
# of sections: 5  
# of instructors: 1

Course Coordinator: Lynne Trulio  
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Department Chair: Lynne Trulio  
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 GELO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY? 
GELO 2: Students will be able to distinguish science from pseudo-science.

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment? 
Students were given standards by which to judge science versus pseudo-science claims and gained proficiency with this GELO by first practicing using the standards. Students were then assessed with an assignment "Can Organic Agriculture Feed the Global Population?", in which students compared and discussed claims on this issue presented in different types of articles, some peer-reviewed, some not. Of the 128 students assessed, 56% received an A or a B, which showed only a little over half the student demonstrated excellent proficiency for this GELO. Approximately 30% did not turn in the assignment.

(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.) 
Students did very well with respect to this GELO when they turned in their work. But, turning in the work on time was a problem for almost 30% of the students. To help with this issue, the instructor instituted a paper amnesty day, of which a few students took advantage. The instructor notes that this assignment is complex and approaches to simplify it may result in more students completing the work. Also, as part of their practice using the science-pseudoscience standards on a reading, the instructor will have students discuss their results on-line and will provide comments on their performance, to help guide them when they do the actual assignment.

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 (GELOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?
Yes, they are. The course GE coordinator meets with all instructors each year to ensure all sections align with GELOs, course content and assessment requirements.

(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 GELOs for writing.

None of the sections of this course exceeded the 40 student maximum by more than 10%.