General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Geology 111, Geology and the Environment_ GE Area: R

Results reported for AY __2012‐2013_______ # of sections _4___ # of instructors 2______________

Course Coordinator: Robert Miller_ E-mail: robert.b.miller@sjsu.edu_________________________________

Department Chair: Robert Miller_____________________ 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 1: Students can demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation.

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

For the on-line sections, the majority of students could formulate hypotheses about material provided in the course and draw quantitative conclusions from relatively straightforward analyses. They had more difficulty with more complex analyses with only about two-thirds of the students being able to reach a defensible conclusion. The main lesson from this assessment is that complex problems need to be broken down into simpler steps with intermediate conclusions drawn.

For the in-person sections, the majority of students were able to apply a scientific approach during in-class discussions and assignments. Students were generally able to gather evidence and draw conclusions based on that evidence. Students had more difficulty when they were encouraged to apply a wide-range of assimilated knowledge to come up with a scientifically based conclusion.

(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 on-line version of the course is being revised to update some of the examples and to simplify some the virtual experiments.
The instructor of the in-person sections is currently (Fall 2013) editing one of the writing assignments for this course to provide students with an opportunity to answer a predetermined scientifically based question. Rather than simply reporting on a geologic event, they will amass scientific evidence and draw conclusions based on this evidence. To complete this assignment, they will also need to distinguish between science and pseudo-science in the literature (one of the other SLO for this course).

**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?

All sections are still aligned with Area R goals and student learning objectives. No action is planned.