General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: HS 172 Contemporary Environmental Health Issues  GE Area: R

Results reported for AY __2016-2017____  # of sections ____2____  # of instructors ____2____

Course Coordinator: Anji Buckner (Assessment coordinator)  E-mail: anji.buckner@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: ____Anne Demers_____  College: _______Applied Sciences and Arts_____

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 3: Students will 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?

   The writing assignment “Critiquing Scientific Literature” was used to assess this GELO in two sections with a total of 65 students. Two specific rubric items were used to determine student ability to apply scientific studies to answer questions about the environment in terms of health.

   • Rubric item #2 covered the social, policy, population health, and evidence of the article in the writing assignment.
     ○ 100% of students across both sections met the threshold (set at B or higher for this item).

   • Rubric item #4 covered the credibility of the journal, research methods, bias, and evaluation of causation in the writing assignment.
     ○ 97% of students met the threshold (set at B or higher for this item).

(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.)

   While all students met (and the majority) exceeded the threshold for this assignment, course instructors still have recommendations for improvement including: 1) identifying and including an article that is more accessible for students in terms of comprehension and clarity for this review and one that addresses environmental health from multiple perspectives; 2) implementing an in-class activity addressing the assignment questions; and 3) if the article connects directly to a textbook chapter, assign the chapter in advance to further support comprehension of article content. The first priority is finding additional articles that would work for this 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?

All sections are aligned with the course goals and GE learning outcomes in content, support, and assessment. There are no necessary changes at this time.

(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.

This course is currently capped at 30 students which allows instructors to adequately provide timely individual feedback on academic progress in writing and presentation skills. There are no recommended changes at this time.