General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: NuFS 144: Food Culture: Consuming Passions

Results reported for: AY 2017-2018

# of sections: 40/42

# of instructors: 14

Course Coordinator: Dr. Ashwini Wagle

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Department Chair: Dr. Ashwini Wagle

College: CHHS

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 1 Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.

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

For this assignment, students interview 2 immigrants to the U.S., using a list of questions about their country of origin and moving on to cover the food culture of their native country with respect to core foods, flavor principles, cultural norms for eating and sharing meals, any religious practices that impact the food culture, important cultural celebrations, and symbolic foods. The interviewees are also asked about changes in their food culture habits since they’ve been in the U.S., and to reflect on the current state of the food culture in their homeland and in the U.S. with respect to globalization and modern life. Students summarize the results of the interview, then complete the assignment by systematically comparing and contrasting the two cultures.

In AY 2017-2018, this assignment was assigned in all 35 sections of NuFS 144 Food Culture. A total of 1166 students were enrolled in the 35 sections. Students did very well on this assignment: 68% scored 90% or better and 21% scored 80% or better. Thus, 89% of students scored a B or better on the assignment. It is worth noting that students often comment on how much they learned from this assignment. Many interview people they know, and comment that they feel they know them much better after this experience.
(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.)

Instructors have agreed that there is a need for a forum for discussion of GE assignments (this one and the other two for this course). A Canvas Discussion is to be set up so that instructors can comment on this and other assignments. The plan is to keep lines of communication open so that the assignment can be updated or tweaked when a majority of instructors and the course coordinator agree that change would be beneficial.

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, all sections of the course are using the same 3 assignments for the 3 course GELOs. Syllabi are collected and reviewed. A Canvas course has been created for instructors, and as mentioned, a Discussion forum will be created to ensure continued alignment.

(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.

The course cap is 30 students, and enrollment averages just over 29 students per section for AY 2017-2018. A few sections (4) at popular times went over the cap, but most had enrollments of close to the cap (a few evening sections had lower enrollment). This number is easily managed for presentations, and with only about 30 students in most cases, instructors are able to document meeting the word count for writing, and are able to manage correcting/giving feedback on papers in the SpeedGrader in Canvas.