General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Chem 100W, Writing Workshop: Chemical Communications  GE Area: Z

Results reported for AY ___ F2013-Sp 2014_  # of sections: 2  # of instructors: 1 (Dr. Joseph Pesek)

Course Coordinator: Prof. Joseph J. Pesek, Ph.D.  E-mail: joseph.pesek@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Prof. Gilles Muller, Ph.D.  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?

SLO #2: Students shall be able to express (explain, analyze, develop, and criticize) ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse.

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

All students who complete Chem 100W, must write a “major paper” assignment, make an oral presentation and present a poster. These assignments involve a review of recent articles on a specific area of scientific research. The format of this paper is that of a review article in a major scientific journal. This paper is typically 25 – 30 pages in length, and provides the bulk of the 8000 word minimum writing requirement for 100W courses. Students use the information they have gathered to make a fifteen minute oral Power Point presentation in class. After the presentation, there are questions by other students and the instructor. The same material is also used to construct a poster, similar in style and format to those presented at major scientific meetings, such as annual meetings of the American Chemical Society. There is a poster session where students stand in front of their poster and answer questions about the topic from the instructor, other students and people from outside of the class. The poster session is put on the department calendar so all students and faculty in the department can attend. Thus all three major assignments in the course, the review paper, oral presentation and poster, require the students to be able to explain, analyze, develop and criticize a current topic in scientific research.

Note: these assignments have been an integral part of this course since before SLOs were instituted by the University.
(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.)

None. SLO #3 will be evaluated in the next cycle (academic year 2014 – 2015).

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. This course is regularly and consistently taught by instructors who are well familiar with the original concept and development of the course (some years ago by Professor Brad Stone) as it has been taught recently, regularly by Dr. Brooke Lustig, and occasionally by Prof. Brad Stone, as well as by Prof. Roger Terrill and Prof. Joseph Pesek.

(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.

Not applicable.