General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: MUSC 19 Music of World Cultures  
GE Area: C1

Results reported for AY: 2015  
# of sections: 1  
# of instructors: 1

Course Coordinator: Timothy Harris  
E-mail: tharris@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Fred Cohen/Janet Averett  
College: Humanities and the 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 SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

SLO #3: Arts courses will enable students to write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness.

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

To measure these Learning Objectives students are assigned four assignments and participate in weekly online discuss forums. For the written reports they write two “live” concert reports and two “streaming audio” reports describing what they heard using their increasing knowledge of World Music terminology, genres, and forms. In these reports students must also respond in writing to aesthetic qualities of the music, while maintaining intellectual objectivity and processes. Students participate in discussion board forums each in which they discuss similarities or differences to musics they are learning about as well as analyzing. For every forum the must post one thread and reply to 3 classmates posts.

70% of the students attained these SLOs with a 90% or better success rate, 20% of the students reached these SLOs with an 80% or higher success rate, and 5% of the students met these SLOs with a 70% or higher success rate. 5% failed to meet SLO 3.

I found students” writing to be greatly improved this past year. While a few students lacked preparation in university-level writing (in particular second language learners), most students succeed at a high rate. I really encouraged students to use the rubric in the syllabus for what is expected in regard to written assignments in the course. In reading the SOTE’s from students from this past year some students felt that too much writing and emphasis on writing was required in
this lower division course. I however found that in doing so, students succeed at a much high rate than previous years.

(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

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 are aligned.

(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.