General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title ANTH 025 Human Lifecourse in Context GE Area E

Results reported for AY 2014-2015 # of sections: 4 # of instructors: 1

Course Coordinator: Chuck Darrah E-mail: chuck.darrah@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Chuck Darrah College: Social Sciences

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?

   Student Learning Objective #2: Students shall recognize the interrelation of the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological factors on their development across the lifespan.

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

   The theoretical basis of Anth 25, Human Lifecourse in Context, is the concept of "authoritative knowledge." Through both lectures and assignments, students are encouraged to think about their decision making process as it affects various stages in life. The student's major homework assignments are included in a sequence called "Choosing Your Path." The students write a series of papers relating their own talents, cultural backgrounds, and interests to a major. They investigate their potential career, and alternative careers in depth and analyze their choices in terms of their imagined future life course. Lectures are focused on the physiological, socio/cultural, and psychological aspects of each stage of life development. The assignment used to evaluate the student's achievement in this area was Assignment 10: "Write a five hundred word review of what you have learned in this class. At this stage in your life, how does your age, your psychological state of maturity, and the expectations of your culture(s) affect the choices you make? How has learning about how people in other cultures make decisions affected your outlook on the choices you will make? In assessing the student learning, many students commented on the fact that they had not previously been encouraged to engage in long term life planning and analysis and that it was very beneficial. Since supporting this behavior among students is a primary goal of the course both the assignment and its outcomes were very successful.

(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.)

   No changes are planned. Versions of this assignment have long been used in the class and it has been continuously refined over the years. It works well and the students report that it aids them greatly in planning their educational future, their work career, and the sort of life they wish to lead. The rich content of the materials submitted indicates that the students are able to convert the readings and lectures into terms that are salient to their own experiences.

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?

Darrah helped develop the course and he taught it for many years; Dr. Anderson has long been the regular instructor, with the result that staffing is stable. The course is discussed regularly at our faculty meeting GE workshops and the coordinator and instructor regularly discuss emerging challenges. The course is tailored to the area goals and SLOs, and it is obviously uniformly taught. No actions are planned beyond the continuous pedagogical reflection and modifications that characterize this assignment and course itself. The chair/GE coordinator is satisfied with the content of the course, as well as its consistency with GE requirements.