General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Biology 54  GE Area: E

Results reported for AY 2014 – 2015  # of sections ______ 4 _______  # of instructors ______ 3 _______

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Department Chair: Dr. Jeffrey Honda  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 will be able to 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?

SLO 2 was assessed across 4 sections and a total of 165 students in AY 14-15. There were 3 major assignments that were used to assess mastery of SLO2: Mean Genes, Emotional Intelligence 2.0 and an oral presentation. The Mean Genes assignment asked students to make the connections between our genome, our behavior and our physiology. Students were asked to read, answer questions and discuss connections. Specifically, students looked at such topics as greed, hunger, addiction, sexuality, and monogamy. Students struggled the most with sexuality and monogamy. For this assessment, 76% of students showed a mastery of a C grade or better.

The Emotional Intelligence 2.0 assignment asked students to examine their own ability to show empathy to others and their selves. Utilizing the book, embedded test questions and quizzes, students were able to see the social, psychological and cultural importance of having strong self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and empathetic relationship management. For this assessment, 81% of students showed a mastery of a C grade or better.

The oral presentation assignment was based on the work they did for their individual literature review paper on human diseases and disorders. In their presentation, they were required to take their research deeper in order to make connections between the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological factors and the impact on their lives and the lives of people affected with each topic. They were instructed to keep the background information brief and focus on things like prevention,
how their topic was transmitted, what novel treatments or cures were in development, and how these maladies impact overall human health and wellbeing. They were required to create a slide deck and present for 20 minutes as a group or 10 minutes if done individually. For this assessment, 92% of students showed a mastery of a C grade or better.

(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.)

Additional efforts are being made to ensure that all Biology 54 students increase their mastery of communication methods by the inclusion of the new text, “Write, Present, Create: Science Communication for Undergraduates”. Starting in Fall 2015, all Biology 54 instructors have voluntarily agreed to use this text to help support students in their literature review paper, digital media project and group presentation.

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?

To the best of my knowledge all sections are aligned with respect to area goals, SLOs, content, support and assessment. There are only three instructors for this course and they work together to maintain consistency.

(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.

NA-This course is an Area E course.