General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: PHYS/MUSC 166 Physics of Music  GE Area: R
Results reported for: AY 14-15  # of sections: 2  # of instructors: 1
Course Coordinator: Brian Holmes  E-mail: brian.holmes@sjsu.edu
Department Chair: Michael Kaufman  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, 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?

SLO 1: Students shall demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation.

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

During AY14-15, 49 students took the course. 38 demonstrated satisfactory mastery of this SLO. This was assessed through questions on tests and homework, though this was also treated in some class discussions and some student papers. Some topics in the course related to this SLO: 1. The meaning of “proof” and “theory” in science, also treated studies of science versus pseudoscience; 2. Scientific investigations of the excellence of Stradivarius violins and other instruments of the Cremona School; 3. Studies of auditorium acoustics and why architects still design acoustically inadequate halls. The number of students who do not meet this SLO is similar to the number of students who do not get satisfactory grades in the course.

(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 modifications are planned.

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?