General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title - SPAN 102B, Hispanic American Culture & Civilization  GE Area  AREA V

Results reported for AY Fall 2014-Spring 2015   # of sections 8   # of instructors 4

Course Coordinator: Anne Fountain E-mail: anne.fountain@sjsu.edu

Department Chair: Damian Bacich

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: (Date submitted: August 14, 2015)

(1) What SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY? For fall 2014, the SLO assessed was Information Literacy, a crucial part of our emphasis on writing and research. After a meeting of SPAN 102B instructors in June 2013, we revised the research assignment to emphasize information literacy along with writing. Now students have to utilize and report on a specific topic using: (1) an academic book (2) an academic article (3) The New York Times * (4) a website and (5) a media source. Students still have to write 6-8 pages but they do so in a structured format, using an electronic guide, where they answer questions with extended responses in each of the five sections. *We chose The New York Times because of its international coverage including many cultural topics relevant to the SPAN 102B course.

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment? So far the results seem positive. The structure imposed discipline and the writing goals were clearly delineated, so students tended to meander far less than they had with term papers. This helped instructors to concentrate on student writing and give useful feedback. Students could also see, often in sharp relief, the difference between academic sources and non-refereed websites.

(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.) At present, no substantial modifications are anticipated. For fall 2015, the objective scheduled to be assessed is SLO # 1.

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 sections are in alignment.

- Damian Bacich, Chair, Dept. of World Languages and Literatures