General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Biol 20 _Ecological Biology  
GE Area: B2 & B3

Results reported for AY 2018-2019  
# of sections: 2 lectures, 7 labs  
# of instructors: 4

Course Coordinator: Stephanie Trewhitt  
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Department Chair: Dr. Shelley Cargill  
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 GELO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

   SLO 2: Students should be able to demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues.

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

   In order to assess GE SLO 2, in the Fall of 2018 and Spring of 2019, students were required to write a paper on an ecological topic in which they discussed how science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues. Also, in the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 students were given labs assignments during the semester, that specifically asked questions about the influence society has on science. Of the 59 enrolled students in the Fall 2018 semester, 55% mastered this outcome at a high level, 31% demonstrated average proficiency, 12% demonstrated marginal proficiency, and 2% were not proficient. During the Spring 2019 semester, of the 81 enrolled students, 32% mastered this outcome at a high level, 52% demonstrated average proficiency, 6% demonstrated marginal proficiency, and 10% were not proficient.

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.)

   Labs are being modified to provide updated materials to enhance the learning experience stressing science, and current real-life issues surrounding ecological concepts. Providing up-to-date examples that are in the news about concepts presented in lab allows students to see their direct connection to the issues and how students can make a difference in the future by the choices they make. Students continue to experience real world solutions to ecological issues through field trips to local businesses and nature reserves.
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 (GELOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?

Yes

(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 GELOs for writing.

NA