

Form 201BC: Assessment Report Form for Instructional Programs

Name Tiffany Davis Department Geography, Sociology, History, Anthropology & African American Studies Fall 2012

Directions: All questions should be addressed in a clear and concise narrative of no more than five, double-spaced pages with major headings and uploaded to LiveText.

Outcomes

Anthropology 1010: Students will demonstrate knowledge of:

- the basic methods central to the discipline
- terminology specific to the discipline
- elements that distinguishes anthropology from other social science disciplines

Method of Assessment

Anthropology 1010: Students will answer 7 questions directly related to selected articles examining their knowledge of cultural systems.

Assessment Findings/Interpretations/Conclusion (Answer all questions.)

The assessment findings for the fall 2012 semester of Anthropology 1010 have the following pass rates for a total of 26 students:

Assessment	Pass rate
Assessment # 1	67%
Assessment # 2	72%
Assessment # 3	68%
Assessment # 4	71%
Assessment # 5	66%
Assessment # 6	75%
Assessment # 7	78%

In combining the pass rates for all of the questions, the overall pass rate stands at 71%. This is a decrease from the spring 2011 pass rate of 80%.

Interpretations

The trend data illustrates that there needs to be some improvement in measured learning. The assessment tool needs to be re-examined and there needs to be more faculty participation. This is the only section of Anthropology which reported assessments results.

Decision-making Using Findings

The current assessment tools seem to be producing effective outcomes on learning. The learning outcomes continue to be met. Although improved, an area of weakness continues to be faculty

participation in assessment. Including assessment as a “natural” part of a course curriculum continues to be challenging.

Demonstrating Improved Learning

This needs to be addressed so that improvements can be made in the coming semester.

Publicizing Student Learning

The assessment results are shared with the department faculty. We seek to update the website with highlights from the assessment data in the near future.

Accomplishments and Challenges

The faculty satisfied with the changes that have recently been made to the assessment tool. It requires students to apply what they have learned, rather than testing them on things they have memorized, which was a central problem with the previous assessment. There remains a struggle for instructors to administer and/or report their assessment findings. Many of our anthropology courses are taught by adjunct professors and it has at times proved a challenge to explain and express to them the importance of assessment as their level of connection to the university sometimes differs from that of tenured and tenure-track faculty. It has also proved difficult to get adjuncts to participate in conversations about how to go about improving the assessment tool in the future. We will continue to address this issue with faculty teaching anthropology and emphasize the importance of assessment at the outset of the semester.

Plan for Academic Modifications Using Findings

We will continue to emphasize the importance for faculty to enforce the university attendance policy and submit early academic warnings during each submission cycle. This will help ensure that students are attending class as they should be and those who are in danger of failing get the help that they need prior to the last few weeks in the semester. If these policies are effectively enforced, students’ level of engagement with the course material should be directly reflected. In addition, faculty teaching these courses will be strongly encouraged to give the assessment prior to the final weeks of the semester in hopes of improving the number of students who are assessed and by extension the pass rates.

Plan for Assessment Modification

Continue participation of faculty through department and program meetings will provide a foundation for the continued review of assessment tools. Faculty are key to determining the quality of assessment tools and their impact on student learning.

Resources Needed

With crippling budget constraints, informing the public about what the students learn and how well they have learned it has been a challenge for the department. This is an issue that will continue to be addressed at department and programs meetings. There has been no plan put in place for publicity at this time.