

Form 201BC: Assessment Report Form for Instructional Programs

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Anthropology & African American Studies Fall 2013

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 a series of assessment 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 2013 semester of Anthropology 1010 have the following pass rates for a total of 41 students:

Assessment	Pass rate
Assessment # 1	71%
Assessment # 2	73%
Assessment # 3	70%
Assessment # 4	76%
Assessment # 5	65%
Assessment # 6	76%
Assessment # 7	80%

Taken together, **anthropology 1010 had a pass rate of 73%**. For the second consecutive semester, the pass rate has experienced a modest increase.

Interpretations

The trend data illustrates that there has been a continuous fluctuation in the pass rate for anthropology 1010. In the previous three years, the pass rate has gone up and down, sometimes as high as 90% in fall 2010 and as low as 71% in fall 2012. We largely attribute this instability to

the fact that the department has no permanent anthropology faculty members. The reliance on adjunct faculty has a direct impact on the level of investment in assessment. Adjunct participation and reporting of results varies each semester. In some semesters, more students were assessed and in others, fewer and this also has an impact on the pass rates, making it hard to make an even comparison across semesters. In the last three semesters, the numbers have somewhat leveled off and my offer a clearer picture of the average pass rate.

Decision-making Using Findings

In still finding the assessment tool satisfactory, the changes that will be made in the future, will be to continue to put a strong emphasis on assessment and attempt to develop a better rapport between the adjuncts who teach these courses and the assessment coordinator for anthropology. The assessment coordinator will identify three separate dates over the course of the semester on which to contact the instructors of these courses to check-in and discuss assessment. This additional contact will assist with building rapport and will serve as reminders for them to administer the assessment tool to the students. The chair has committed to assist in facilitating in this process in any way necessary.

Demonstrating Improved Learning

The 1% increase, in the pass rate of the assessment tool over the past academic year to the current, demonstrates students are learning and comprehending the concepts and materials at a satisfactory and consistent rate. Clearly, there is significant room for improvement, which we hope will come as we work to improve our relationship with the faculty teaching these courses.

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 assessment of anthropology program and general education courses in anthropology has been greatly successful due to organizing the instructors and changing the assessment tool.

There remains a struggle for instructors to administer and/or report their assessment findings. 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.