

Form 201BC: Assessment Report Form for Instructional Programs

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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 spring 2015 semester of Anthropology 1010 have the following pass rates for a total of 42 students:

Assessment	Pass rate
Assessment # 1	72%
Assessment # 2	76%
Assessment # 3	70%
Assessment # 4	74%
Assessment # 5	77%
Assessment # 6	75%
Assessment # 7	81%

Taken together, **anthropology 1010 had a pass rate of 75%**. In comparison to 69% pass rate from fall 2014, the pass rate has experienced a relatively significant increase.

Interpretations

The trend data illustrates that there has been a continuous fluctuation in the pass rate for anthropology 1010. In the previous two semesters, spring 2014 and fall 2014, the pass rates were 70% and 69% respectively. Those semesters saw a slight decrease, whereas this semester, the pass rates increased by 6%. This increase could be contributed to some of what we have learned

in the past. Recognizing the difficulty of getting adjunct faculty to truly understand and participate in assessment has been difficult. This semester, we did a much better job of staying in regular contact with the adjunct faculty member teaching two sections of this course. It is possible that this regular contact helped the faculty member better embed the course objectives in the instruction that semester. The assessment tool still needs to be better adapted to be administered online, as it is still incongruent with the online environment. As it stands, asking students to read and comprehend 7 short articles and then report on them in an online format is difficult. It is difficult to explain the importance of assessment online, and the current assessment, when completed outside of the classroom likely feels like more work and this likely explains the low response rate.

Decision-making Using Findings

Although the assessment tool is satisfactory in the traditional classroom setting, we are working on amending it to make it more amenable to online courses. This is a crucial step especially since there are only a couple of sections of this course offered each semester and at least half are usually online in order to accommodate the adjunct faculty. The assessment coordinator will meet with the faculty member(s) who have taught the course in recent semesters for suggestions on how to revise the tool.

Demonstrating Improved Learning

The 6% increase in the pass rate of the assessment tool since the last semester demonstrates that communication amongst faculty and administration is one of the major factors in student success. Previous declines in rates could have been attributed to this lack of communication rather than

student ability.

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.