

Student Learning Assurance Report AY 2014-2015

Report Date:

November 8, 2015

School/College:

College of Arts and Sciences

Department/Program:

Sociology

Person Completing the Report:

Stephanie D. Sears

1. Overview Statement:

- a. which program learning outcomes were assessed this year.

Required Courses Assessed

- Introduction to Sociology—Outcomes 1a, 1b, 3a
- Sociological Theory—Outcome 2a
- Research Methods—Outcomes 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e
- Honors Thesis Workshop—Outcomes 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e
- Senior Capstone in Sociology—Outcomes 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b, 4c

Elective Courses Assessed

- People of Mixed Descent—Outcomes 3d, 3e
- Criminology—Outcome 4a
- Community Organizing—Outcomes 4b, 4c

- b. who in your department was involved in the evaluation of the above learning outcomes.

Courses Assessed by

- Josh Gamson
- Noriko Milman
- Dan Morgan
- Kim Richman
- Evelyn Rodriguez
- Stephanie Sears
- Hwaji Shin
- John Stover

2. Please Answers the Following Questions for Each of the Student Outcomes Assessed:

- a. What did you do?

Describe clearly and concisely how you assessed the learning outcomes that were evaluated this year (e.g., measures, research methods, etc.). [please use bullet points to answer this question]

This year we revised our assessment plan and began the process of evaluating each learning outcome over the course of the year. Towards this end we had faculty teaching both required and elective courses complete the existing rubrics.

Fall 2014

Outcome		Course	Tool	Totals by Outcome for Year
1a	Define, give examples of, and use meaningfully at least six of the following: culture; status; role; norms; deviance; social structure; social class; social mobility; social change; socialization; stratification; institutions; race; ethnic group; gender. <i>% at good/very good = 69%</i>	Intro	Exam Q's	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 145</i> Very poor = 7 Poor = 12 Average = 26 Good = 51 Very Good = 49
1b	Identify both macrosociological and microsociological aspects of social life, and discuss examples of these from at least one substantive area of sociology. <i>% at good/very good=70%</i>	Intro	Exam Q's	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 145</i> Very poor = 9 Poor = 6 Average = 28 Good = 50 Very Good = 52
2a	Describe, compare, and contrast basic theoretical orientations, such as functionalism, conflict theories, and interactionism. <i>% at good/very good=42%</i>	Theory	Exam/paper	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 26</i> Very poor = 2 Poor = 2 Average = 11 Good = 8 Very Good = 3
3a	Describe, compare, and contrast basic methodological approaches for gathering sociological data, including both quantitative and qualitative methods. <i>% at good/very good=58%</i>	Intro Methods Honors	Exam Q's/ presentation Research report	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 151</i> Very poor = 8 Poor = 9 Average = 47 Good = 40 Very Good = 47

Spring 2015

Outcome		Course	Tool	Totals by Outcome for Year
3a	Describe, compare, and contrast basic methodological approaches for gathering sociological data, including both quantitative and qualitative methods.	Intro Methods Honors	Exam Q's Research report/papers	See outcome 3a under Fall 14
3b	Design a research study in an area of choice and explain why various decisions were made, including sampling, variables, measures, methods of data collection, and data analysis. <i>% at good/very good=72%</i>	Honors Methods Capstone	Exam Q's Research report/papers	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 60</i> Very poor = 0 Poor = 6 Average = 11 Good = 22 Very Good = 21
3c	Use computerized and on-line databases to find published sociological research. <i>% at good/very good=87%</i>	Honors Methods Capstone	Exam Q's Research report/papers	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 60</i> Very poor = 1 Poor = 2 Average = 5 Good = 15 Very Good = 37
3d	Critically assess a published research report in an area of choice <i>% at good/very good=43%</i>	Honors Methods People of Mixed Descent	Exam Q's Research report/papers	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 53</i> Very poor = 1 Poor = 9 Average = 20 Good = 11 Very Good = 12
3e	Clearly convey data findings in writing	Honors Methods Capstone People of Mixed Descent	Exam Q's Research report/papers	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 80</i> Very poor = 0 Poor = 10 Average = 14 Good = 32 Very Good = 24

Outcome		Course	Tool	Totals by Outcome for Year
	<i>% at good/very good=70%</i>			
4a	Explain the implications for practical action of sociological theory and research in an area of choice. <i>% at good/very good=87%</i>	Capstone Criminology	Exam Q's Research report/papers	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 55</i> Very poor = 1 Poor = 2 Average = 4 Good = 29 Very Good = 19
4b	Develop a sociologically informed action plan in an area of choice <i>% at good/very good=80%</i>	Capstone Community Organizing	Research report/papers	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 40</i> Very poor = 1 Poor = 4 Average = 3 Good = 18 Very Good = 14
4c	Conduct at least twenty-five hours of service or activist work in an area of choice, and explain what they have experienced from a sociological framework <i>% at good/very good=77%</i>	Capstone Community Organizing	Research report/papers	<i>Total Number of Students Assessed: 40</i> Very poor = 0 Poor = 3 Average = 6 Good = 12 Very Good = 19

Totals for All Courses*

Total Number of Students Assessed: 437

Note: *The following totals are simply straight counts across all classes and do not equal the total number of students assessed.*

Very poor = 48

Poor = 88

Average = 248

Good = 394

Very Good = 398

% at good/very good=67%; at average and above =88%

b. What did the faculty in the department or program learn?

Summarize your findings and conclusions as a result of the student learning assurance indicating

strengths and weaknesses in student learning demonstrated by this evaluation

Learning Outcome #3	Methods <i>Total Number of Students Assessed:</i> 22	Honors <i>Total Number of Students Assessed:</i> 11	Capstone <i>Total Number of Students Assessed:</i> 27
Outcome 3a: Describe, compare, and contrast basic methodological approaches for gathering sociological data, including both quantitative and qualitative methods. <i>% at good/very good</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 3 Average = 8 Good = 20 Very Good = 24* <i>80%</i>	Very poor = 1 Poor = 0 Average = 5 Good = 2 Very Good = 3 <i>45%</i>	
Outcome 3b: Design a research study in an area of choice and explain why various decisions were made, including sampling, variables, measures, methods of data collection, and data analysis. <i>% at good/very good</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 0 Average = 1 Good = 12 Very Good = 9 <i>95%</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 2 Average = 3 Good = 3 Very Good = 3 <i>54%</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 4 Average = 7 Good = 7 Very Good = 9 <i>59%</i>
Outcome 3c: Use computerized and on-line databases to find published sociological research. <i>% at good/very good</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 0 Average = 0 Good = 0 Very Good = 22 <i>100%</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 0 Average = 1 Good = 6 Very Good = 4 <i>90%</i>	Very poor = 1 Poor = 2 Average = 4 Good = 9 Very Good = 11 <i>74%</i>
Outcome 3d: Critically assess a published research report in an area of choice. <i>% at good/very good</i>	Very poor = 1 Poor = 2 Average = 10 Good = 5 Very Good = 4 <i>41%</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 0 Average = 3 Good = 3 Very Good = 5 <i>72%</i>	
Outcome 3e: Clearly convey data findings in writing. <i>% at good/very good</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 1 Average = 3 Good = 7 Very Good = 11 <i>81%</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 3 Average = 1 Good = 4 Very Good = 3 <i>63%</i>	Very poor = 0 Poor = 2 Average = 7 Good = 11 Very Good = 7 <i>66%</i>

*There is a numerical discrepancy between the amount of data collected for LO 3a and the rest of the LO assessed via our Methods course. I am looking into finding out what happened here.

Overall, we seem to be achieving our learning outcomes with 67% of our students in the good or very good category and about 88% scoring at average or above. However, we need to examine more closely what is happening with Learning Outcomes 2a, 3a, and 3d. In addition, if we take a closer

look at Learning Outcome 3, and its various components, we can see that there is a discrepancy between what is considered satisfactory in Methods and what students are expected to be able to do in our Capstone and Thesis classes. As of now, we have yet to close the loop and have a departmental discussion of this matter.

c. What will be done differently as a result of what was learned?

Discuss how courses and/or curricula will be changed to improve student learning as a result of the evaluation. Include a discussion of how the faculty will help students overcome their weaknesses and improve their strengths.

At this moment, we will not make any changes in our curriculum until we have time to discuss the current report and develop a more meaningful assessment plan.

c. What student learning improvement initiatives did you implement as a result of what was learned from this Year's student learning assurance report?

Discuss how courses and/or curricula were changed to improve student learning as a result of the Year's student learning assurance. Include a discussion of how the faculty has helped students overcome their learning weaknesses and improve their strengths.

No changes were implemented

2. Attach a copy of the components of the department/program student learning assurance plan that have been modified since its initial submission:

- a. Program Mission
- b. Program Learning Goals
- c. Program Learning Outcomes
- d. Program Learning Rubrics aligned with outcomes
- e. Curriculum map that shows the courses that pertain to the outcome