University of San Francisco African Studies Program Assessment Plan 2015-2016

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Introduction

The African Studies Program was established in 2001 with the goal of increasing the presence of Africa in the university's curriculum and in university life. By exposing students to courses with a rich African content, the program seeks to deepen students' knowledge of the histories and cultures of African peoples.

The Program offers a minor, consisting of 5 courses (20 units). The curriculum is as follows:

Required course (4): Either HIST Modern African History (4) OR

POLS 348 Politics and Development of Africa (4)

Two Full Coverage Africa courses (8): See list

Two Elective courses: One must be at least partial coverage of Africa (4)

One may be an approved African-American course (4)

As an undergraduate area studies minor program, we have not yet been required to submit any formal assessment data. The main challenge we face derives from the structure of our curriculum. African Studies minors only take one required course (of which there are two options). The majority take this class early in their undergraduate career. The rest of their courses are electives, of which there are over 50 course options. Under the direction of the Coordinator, the African Studies Advisory Board assesses course syllabi and decides whether a class meets our PLOs and should be included in our electives list. At present, our student and faculty numbers make it infeasible to offer a capstone class. A seminar/workshop specifically addressing the issues interdisciplinary minor programs (with no major or department) face would be very helpful.

Mission Statement

USF's African Studies Program is an interdisciplinary minor program that seeks to deepen students' knowledge and understanding of the history and culture of African peoples in Africa and the African Diaspora. Through African-focused events and courses in history, politics, theology and religious studies, art, music, and literature, students are introduced to the diversity of African experiences and African contributions to global history and culture.

African Studies Program Learning Outcomes

- Develop an appreciation of the rich and diverse experiences of Africans in Africa and the African Diaspora and their contributions to global history and culture.
- Articulate through writing and discussions an understanding of the complex social, political, and economic processes—on the local, regional, and global levels—that impact the lives of Africans.
- Demonstrate the ability to use the methodologies of a variety of disciplines (e.g. historical, literary, economic, and political) to analyze Africa's experiences.

Assessment Plan for 2015-2016

Fall 2015:

- 1. Review and approve mission statement and program learning outcomes.
- 2. Plan assessment activities for Spring 2016.

Spring 2016:

- 1. PLO 1 ("Develop an appreciation...) will be evaluated via an embedded assignment or question in FREN 250 Africa Films Africa (taught by Karen Bouwer). We envision this course to have the highest number of African Studies minors in it.
- 2. The International Studies Department is undergoing a program review. During Spring 2016, the Self-Study portion of this process will be written. As most of our African Studies minors are International Studies majors (BAIS) we will participate in this process. Our hope is to be able to coordinate our future assessment activities with BAIS as one of the BAIS PLOs is directly related to regional knowledge.
- 3. Complete a curriculum map, due July 1, 2016.
- 4. Review data collected and assessment plan.