

Peace & Justice Studies Minor “Assessment Note” for 2016-2017

(prepared by Annick Wibben, Feb 2018)

The Peace & Justice Studies (PJS) Advisory Board only approved the Program Learning Outcomes for the minor in April 2017. We decided to align them with the Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) with the only required class that all students in the minor take in an effort to at least capture an element of what our students learn as part of the PJS minor.

PLOs for PJS:

Upon completing the Peace & Justice Studies minor, students will be able to...

- Demonstrate general knowledge of conditions that lead to war and injustice as well as opportunities to work toward peace and justice;
- Describe and critically assess scholarship on peace and justice;
- Identify connections between (in)justices in the world ‘out there’ and their own lives.

Since the PJS PLOs were only created and approved in mid-April 2017, no specific assessment for them was integrated into the course design for the required course; nor were any other assessment modes (such as an exit survey or interview for graduating seniors) devised. Indeed, as the program director, I was under the impression that we would only have to do assessment for the coming (2017-18) academic year and have been scrambling to find useful ways to retroactively assess the program.

What is more, I am concerned that the small number of minors (and the fact that they only take one shared class) makes any assessment not an assessment of the PLOs, but rather of the CLOs for the required class. What is more, the n for assessment in that class varies widely – in any one year no PJS minor might be taking the class, other times we might have between 3-5 students taking the class. Any assessment will thus be inconclusive based on only this data. Given this conundrum, we will be discussing the options for assessment again at our spring 2018 meeting, but meanwhile, I have no concrete information to report.

Snapshot of possible student population to assess for 2016-17:

- 12 Minors, thereof 3 graduates in spring 2017
- Students taking the required class for the PJS minor, The Politics of Peace & War, in spring 2017: 5
- 4 students passed the class, thus meeting the CLOs | one student failed it [but I don’t feel confident to infer anything from this limited data].