



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Saint Louis University
Program Assessment Plan

Program (Major, Minor, Core): BA in Political Science

Department: Political Science

College/School: College of Arts and Sciences

Person(s) Responsible for Implementing the Plan: Political Science undergraduate committee, under the direction of the undergraduate program coordinator. All faculty teaching undergraduate classes are involved in the process, perhaps because they assess program learning outcomes in their classes, certainly because they receive the annual summary and participate in the annual discussion.

Date Submitted: 9 December 2016

Program Learning Outcomes	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Methods	Use of Assessment Data
<p><i>What do you expect all students who complete the program to know, or be able to do?</i></p>	<p><i>Where is the outcome learned/assessed (courses, internships, student teaching, clinical, etc.)?</i></p>	<p><i>How do students demonstrate their performance of the program learning outcomes? How does the program measure student performance? Distinguish your direct measures from indirect measures.</i></p>	<p><i>How does the program use assessment results to recognize success and "close the loop" to inform additional program improvement? How/when is this data shared, and with whom?</i></p>
<p>1. Students will be able to identify the structure and operation of political systems in the U.S, across a variety of countries, and in multinational organizations.</p> <p>Madrid version: Students will</p>	<p>1000- and 2000-level courses, including but not limited to:</p> <p>POLS 1100 Intro to American Government</p> <p>POLS 1150 American Political Systems</p> <p>POLS 1500 Intro to Comparative</p>	<p>Student performance is assessed through class assignments. Faculty members who teach the mapped classes select the class assignments on which to base assessments. Individual faculty members may develop rubrics for their own purposes. The</p>	<p>Faculty who teach one of the targeted classes submit reports on how well students meet learning outcomes annually to the department undergraduate coordinator. The questions that faculty answer are attached. We are creating a Qualtrix survey to collect</p>

<p>be able to identify and compare political systems in the Western world, international trends at the global level and multinational organizations.</p>	<p>Politics POLS 1600 Intro to International Politics POLS 2100 The American Constitution POLS 2120 The American Congress POLS 2140 The American Presidency POLS 2510 West European Politics POLS 2600 Introduction to International Political Economy POLS 2580 Politics of Mexico</p>	<p>department will develop rubrics for optional use.</p> <p>Not all of the mapped classes are offered every year. In a given year, around 6 classes will be included.</p>	<p>answers. The undergraduate coordinator shares the summary of faculty reports with all faculty members. All faculty discuss the summary assessment report at the department August retreat to determine whether curricular changes are needed.</p> <p>In addition, the department's undergraduate committee meets at least once a semester to review student and department-wide outcomes and consider curriculum and/or advising changes. Areas of concern or significant accomplishment will be brought to the attention of the department faculty for further consideration.</p>
<p>2. Students will be able to distinguish among various approaches to studying political phenomena.</p>	<p>POLS 1000 Introduction to Politics POLS 2000 Political Science Methods POLS 3500 East Asian Political Economy POLS 4010 Cultural Methods POLS 4500 Russian Political Culture POLS 4610 International Relations: Theory and Practice POLS 4630 The European Union: Politics & Political Economy</p>	<p>Student performance is assessed through class assignments. Faculty members who teach the mapped classes select the class assignments on which to base assessments. Individual faculty members may develop a rubric for their own purposes. The department will develop rubrics for optional use.</p>	<p>Faculty who teach one of the targeted classes submit reports on how well students meet learning outcomes annually to the department undergraduate coordinator. The questions that faculty answer are attached. We are creating a Qualtrix survey to collect answers. The undergraduate coordinator shares the summary of faculty reports with all faculty members. All faculty discuss the summary assessment report at the department August retreat to determine whether curricular</p>

			<p>changes are needed.</p> <p>In addition, the department's undergraduate committee meets at least once a semester to review student and department-wide outcomes and consider curriculum and/or advising changes. Areas of concern or significant accomplishment will be brought to the attention of the department faculty for further consideration.</p>
<p>3. Students will be able to read carefully and evaluate and construct analytical arguments in clear and logical prose.</p>	<p>Political Thought and many 3000-level classes, including but not limited to:</p> <p>POLS 1700 Foundations of Political Theory POLS 2691 Theory and Practice of Human Rights POLS 2700 Issues in Political Philosophy POLS 3640 International Law POLS 3650 International Relations of Africa POLS 3660 US Strategy in Asia POLS 3710 Ancient and Medieval Political Theory POLS 3720 Renaissance and Modern Political Theory POLS 3740 Capitalism, Racism, Patriarchy POLS 3810 Latin-American-US Relations</p>	<p>Student performance is assessed through class assignments. Faculty members who teach the mapped classes select the class assignments on which to base assessments. Individual faculty members may develop a rubric for their own purposes. The department will develop rubrics for optional use.</p> <p>Not all of the mapped classes are offered every year. In a given year, around 10 classes will be included.</p>	<p>Faculty who teach one of the targeted classes submit reports on how well students meet learning outcomes annually to the department undergraduate coordinator. The questions that faculty answer are attached. We are creating a Qualtrix survey to collect answers. The undergraduate coordinator shares the summary of faculty reports with all faculty members. All faculty discuss the summary assessment report at the department August retreat to determine whether curricular changes are needed.</p> <p>In addition, the department's undergraduate committee meets at least once a semester to review student and department-wide outcomes and consider curriculum</p>

	POLS 4740 Marx's Capital		and/or advising changes. Areas of concern or significant accomplishment will be brought to the attention of the department faculty for further consideration.
4. Students will be able to identify and gather information from credible primary and secondary sources.	<p>Many 3000- and 4000-level classes, including but not limited to:</p> <p>POLS 2590 Politics of the Middle East and North Africa POLS 2640 International Terrorism POLS 3140 Public Opinion and Mass Communication POLS 3530 Comparative Revolution POLS 3567 Political Development in Contemporary Spain POLS 3670 America and the Middle East POLS 3930 Special Topic: International Security POLS 4120 Civil Rights: A Moot Court Seminar POLS 4140 Political Parties POLS 4150 Gender and Politics POLS 4170 Electoral Politics POLS 4171 Law, Policy, Society POLS 4300 Law, Politics, and Regulatory Policy POLS 4340 Issues in Public Policy POLS 4360 Urban Economic Development</p>	<p>Research papers or analytical essays.</p> <p>Not all of the mapped classes are offered every year. In a given year, around 10 classes will be included.</p>	<p>Faculty who teach one of the targeted classes submit reports on how well students meet learning outcomes annually to the department undergraduate coordinator. The questions that faculty answer are attached. We are creating a Qualtrix survey to collect answers. The undergraduate coordinator shares the summary of faculty reports with all faculty members. All faculty discuss the summary assessment report at the department August retreat to determine whether curricular changes are needed.</p> <p>In addition, the department's undergraduate committee meets at least once a semester to review student and department-wide outcomes and consider curriculum and/or advising changes. Areas of concern or significant accomplishment will be brought to the attention of the department faculty for further consideration.</p>

	<p>POLS 4510 Democratization POLS 4520 Political Change POLS 4610 International Relations: Theory and Practice POLS 4630 The European Union: Politics & Political Economy POLS 4650 War, Peace, and Politics POLS 4692 Theories of World Politics POLS 4710 Citizenship and Social Difference POLS 4730 Contemporary Political Ideologies POLS 4750 American Political Thought POLS 4840 Global Health Politics and Policy POLS 4991 Political Science Honors Thesis</p>		
<p>5. Students will be able to design original research to test arguments and hypotheses with qualitative and/or quantitative approaches.</p>	<p>Methods class and most 4000-level seminars, including but not limited to:</p> <p>POLS 2000 Methods in Political Science POLS 4140 Political Parties POLS 4150 Gender and Politics POLS 4170 Electoral Politics POLS 4171 Law, Policy, Society POLS 4300 Law, Politics, and Regulatory Policy POLS 4340 Issues in Public Policy</p>	<p>Research papers and research designs.</p> <p>Not all of the mapped classes are offered every year. In a given year, around 10 classes will be included.</p>	<p>Faculty who teach one of the targeted classes submit reports on how well students meet learning outcomes annually to the department undergraduate coordinator. The questions that faculty answer are attached. We are creating a Qualtrix survey to collect answers. The undergraduate coordinator shares the summary of faculty reports with all faculty members. All faculty discuss the summary assessment report at the</p>

	<p>POLS 4500 Russian Political Culture</p> <p>POLS 4510 Democratization</p> <p>POLS 4520 Political Change</p> <p>POLS 4530 Authoritarianism</p> <p>POLS 4610 International Relations: Theory and Practice</p> <p>POLS 4630 The European Union: Politics & Political Economy</p> <p>POLS 4730 Contemporary Political Ideologies</p> <p>POLS 4750 American Political Thought</p> <p>POLS 4840 Global Health Politics and Policy</p> <p>POLS 4991 Political Science Honors Thesis</p>		<p>department August retreat to determine whether curricular changes are needed.</p> <p>In addition, the department's undergraduate committee meets at least once a semester to review student and department-wide outcomes and consider curriculum and/or advising changes. Areas of concern or significant accomplishment will be brought to the attention of the department faculty for further consideration.</p>
<p>6. Students will be able to assess the effects of various social and political structures and public policies to determine which are more likely to promote equality, justice, freedom, or other values important to them.</p> <p>Madrid version: Students will be able to use knowledge of other cultures and languages to one's own in order to conduct culturally-sensitive analyses of local, regional,</p>	<p>Courses that fulfill the Global Citizenship and U.S. Diversity Requirements:</p> <p>POLS 1200 US State and Urban Politics,</p> <p>POLS 1510 Politics of the Developing World,</p> <p>POLS 2010 Ethics and Politics</p> <p>POLS 2150 Race and Politics</p> <p>POLS 2220 Urban Politics</p> <p>POLS 2300 Public Administration</p> <p>POLS 2350 Morality Politics</p> <p>POLS 2520 Introduction to African Politics</p> <p>POLS 2530 Soviet and Post-Soviet</p>	<p>Student performance is assessed through class assignments. Faculty members who teach the mapped classes select the class assignments on which to base assessments. Individual faculty members may develop a rubric for their own purposes. The department will develop rubrics for optional use.</p> <p>Not all of the mapped classes are offered every year. In a given year, around 15 classes will be included.</p>	<p>Faculty who teach one of the targeted classes submit reports on how well students meet learning outcomes annually to the department undergraduate coordinator. The questions that faculty answer are attached. We are creating a Qualtrix survey to collect answers. The undergraduate coordinator shares the summary of faculty reports with all faculty members. All faculty discuss the summary assessment report at the department August retreat to determine whether curricular changes are needed.</p>

<p>global and international issues.</p>	<p>Politics POLS 2540 Ethnicity and Internal War POLS 2560 Politics of Asia POLS 2570 Intro to Latin American Politics POLS 2800 Men and Masculinities POLS 3130 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights POLS 3520 Communism, Capitalism, and Social Justice POLS 3530 Comparative Revolution POLS 3540 Latin American Social Movements POLS 3600 Problems of Globalization POLS-3750 The Modern Democratic State POLS 3770 Feminist Theory POLS 3780 Disability Theory and Politics POLS 4710 Citizenship and Social Difference</p>		<p>In addition, the department's undergraduate committee meets at least once a semester to review student and department-wide outcomes and consider curriculum and/or advising changes. Areas of concern or significant accomplishment will be brought to the attention of the department faculty for further consideration.</p>
<p>7. Students will be able to use their knowledge of political systems to engage effectively in political and social life.</p>	<p>POLS 1000 Intro to Politics POLS 2010 Ethics and Politics POLS 2160 Campaigns and Elections POLS 2210 Civic Renewal POLS 2691 Theory and Practice of Human Rights POLS 2800 Men and Masculinities POLS 2930 Introduction to Public</p>	<p>Student performance is assessed through class assignments. Faculty members who teach the mapped classes select the class assignments on which to base assessments. Individual faculty members may develop a rubric for their own purposes. The department will develop rubrics</p>	<p>Faculty who teach one of the targeted classes submit reports on how well students meet learning outcomes annually to the department undergraduate coordinator. The questions that faculty answer are attached. We are creating a Qualtrix survey to collect answers. The undergraduate</p>

	Policy POLS 3140 Public Opinion and Mass Communication POLS 3150 American Presidential Elections POLS 3590 The Arab Uprisings POLS 3800 Structure of Poverty POLS 3850 Feminism in Action POLS 3913 Atlas Internship POLS 3916 Campaign Practicum POLS 4590 Crisis of Leadership POLS 4930 Islam and Gender	for optional use.	coordinator shares the summary of faculty reports with all faculty members. All faculty discuss the summary assessment report at the department August retreat to determine whether curricular changes are needed. In addition, the department's undergraduate committee meets at least once a semester to review student and department-wide outcomes and consider curriculum and/or advising changes. Areas of concern or significant accomplishment will be brought to the attention of the department faculty for further consideration.
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1. It is not recommended to try and assess (in depth) all of the program learning outcomes every semester. It is best practice to plan out when each outcome will be assessed and focus on 1 or 2 each semester/academic year. Describe the responsibilities, timeline, and the process for implementing this assessment plan.

- Year One: Assess outcomes 1 and 4 (not much overlap in classes)
- Year Two: Assess outcomes 2 and 7 (not much overlap in classes)
- Year Three: Assess outcome 3
- Year Four: Assess outcome 5
- Year Five: Assess outcome 6

The chair and undergraduate coordinator will remind faculty about the outcomes being assessed prior to the start of the semester and will remind faculty to hand in summaries of student progress. Summaries will be due by Commencement. The departmental summary will be completed by the undergraduate coordinator in early June and shared with faculty. Discussion of assessment results will occur at the August department retreat.

2. Please explain how these assessment efforts are coordinated with Madrid (courses and/or program)?

This plan has been shared with the faculty at the Madrid campus. The Madrid faculty reworded outcomes 1 and 6 to better reflect their own goals for students and their location in Europe. In years when we are focusing on outcome 1 or 6, each location will use its own preferred version.

3. The program assessment plan should be developed and approved by all faculty in the department. In addition, the program assessment plan should be developed to include student input and external sources (e.g., national standards, advisory boards, employers, alumni, etc.). Describe the process through which your academic unit created this assessment plan. Include the following:

- a. Timeline regarding when or how often this plan will be reviewed and revised. (This could be aligned with program review.)

The plan was developed over time. Since 2000, we have had at least four versions of learning outcomes. This plan reflects outcomes developed in 2016 in response to comments by the Associate Dean and University Assessment Manager. The new outcomes were discussed and approved at the department's August 2016 retreat.

What faculty report has changed over time as well. At one point, we used a rubric, but faculty reported so little information that the data were useless. We have also tried unfocused narratives, but again the information provided was hard to use. Insofar as faculty address the four questions we now ask and focus on the right learning objectives, the present process is one that produces information on which we can base curricular decisions. One change in the present plan is a more intentional mapping of classes to learning outcomes. This mapping does not indicate that only those classes address a given outcome; it will simply limit the amount of information collected in any one year, reducing the burden on faculty and making it easier to draw conclusions about what should be done. This 2016 plan was approved in a faculty meeting November 18, 2016.

The plan is reviewed annually at the departmental retreat in August.

- b. How students were included in the process and/or how student input was gathered and incorporated into the assessment plan.

During the Spring of 2017, we will share these outcomes with students and consider their input. The outcomes will be posted to the Political Science website.

- c. What external sources were consulted in the development of this assessment plan?

Walwood, Barbara. 2010. *Assessment Clear and Simple: A Practical Guide for Institutions, Departments, and General Education*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

- d. Assessment of the manageability of the plan in relation to departmental resources and personnel.

The department has been assessing student learning outcomes for over a decade at the undergraduate level. This plan reduces the number of classes involved in the assessment process each year, so it should be easier to implement than our previous plan.

Assessment questions for faculty

To assess student learning outcomes, please answer these questions in no more than one page total and send the results to Ken by MAY 19, 2016:

1. How did your course contribute to this goal? What did you do to develop these skills in students?
2. How well prepared were students coming into the class?
3. How well did student accomplish this goal by the end of class? What tactics were effective in building student skills?

	Majors (xx students)	Non-Majors (xx students)
Number who exceeded expectations		
Number who met expectations		
Number who did not meet expectations		

4. How might the department help students better accomplish these goals?