PS 102 American Government – Fall 2011

Course SLOs
1. Define politics in a minimum of four different ways and explain how each definition applies to a different method of teaching political science.
2. Name five different theories as to how U.S. policies are created.
3. Label political terms and groups on a schematic chart of left and right political philosophies.
4. Distinguish between various political systems and cultures.
5. Describe how African-Americans, women, indigenous people and various immigrant groups achieved legal rights.
6. Discuss the creation and history of Federalism in the United States.
7. Give examples of coercive and persuasive political power.
8. Differentiate between leadership and charisma.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of the U.S. and California governments through examinations and reports.
10. Relate the role of the United States in world affairs.
11. Analyze the future of the U.S. political systems.

Indicate planned course assessment strategies
Other
Other
Heather McCarty is assessing this course as it is only taught by adjuncts.
Heather used the final exam given by Alan Kirshner in Fall 2011 to assess course SLOs 1 and 4.
Describe the criteria and/or performance standards used to appraise student work.
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This was the second exam given in the course. The previous early midterm exam was also the same essay format. There are two parts to the exam. In Part 1, students are asked to identify the historical significance for 10 out of 20 possible identifications. In part 2, students were given two possible essay topics and they picked one to write about on the exam. So the final exam, was the second essay exam that students will have answered. I opted to use
the final essay exam since students will have already received feedback on the first exam and this will be a reinforcement of skills related to the SLOs being assessed -- SLOs 1 and 4.

All two of the essay exams require students to construct a historical hypothesis, per SLO4. All of the essay questions also require students to assess the basic structures and procedures of American Government (SLO 1). Heather McCarty is using the grades reported by Alan Kirshner on the exam as a measure for whether or not students successfully mastered SLOs 1 and 4. Please see the attached Final Exam PS102 - Kirshner essay questions. **Enter assessment results and analyze student success in achieving course SLOs.**

Alan Kirshner explained that students could not pass the exam without successfully demonstrating mastery over SLOs 1 and 4. Therefore, Heather McCarty is using the grades reported by Alan Kirshner on the exam as a measure for whether or not students successfully mastered SLOs 1 and 4.

In a class of 29 students, 7 students earned As, 11 students earned Bs, 5 students earned Cs, 1 students earned Ds, 2 students earned Fs, and 3 students did not take the final exam. Of the 26 students that completed the exam, 88% of the them mastered the SLOs with a C grade or higher.

One limitation of this data, is that the final exam grades consist of two parts. Part 1, which is the identifications and Part 2 which is the essay. Students could have done poorly on the essay, but well on the identifications and still passed the exam with a C or higher. Only SLO 4 is called into question by not having the score data for the exam divided by parts. Since the list of identifications require to assess the basic structures and procedures of American Government (SLO 1) we feel that the combined final exam score does accurately reflect mastery of SLO 1.

**Describe revisions in curriculum or teaching strategies implemented to promote student success.**

None at this time.

**Future Action (Improvements)**

Maintain current student learning plan