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**Fall 2005 Semester Assessment Report Form  
DUE March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

**Directions:** Please complete a form for each of the programs within your department. This form was designed to provide a format for assessment reporting and should not be used to limit the amount of information provided. Each box that is attached to each of the sections is designed to adjust to varying lengths. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Bea Babbitt at x51506 or via email at: babbitt@unlv.nevada.edu.

1. Program Information:

Program	Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Department	Political Science
College	Liberal Arts
Program Assessment Coordinator	Dr. David F. Damore
Report Submitted by	Dr. David F. Damore
Phone/email	895-3217; david.damore@unlv.edu
Date Submitted	March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2006

2. According to the Assessment Plan for this program, what were the planned assessments to be conducted during the 2005-2006 Academic Year? You may want to copy and paste from this program's assessment plan.

Which outcomes for this program were measured?	How did you measure the outcomes?	What results did you expect?
1. Development of critical thinking skills necessary for the evaluation of social scientific concepts.	Assessment exit surveys and instructor evaluations.	Expected course mean of 6.5 out of 10 on exit survey.
3. Knowledge of the research process in the social sciences	Assessment exit surveys and instructor evaluations.	Expected course mean of 6.5 out of 10 on exit survey.
4. Development of the skills for sophisticated information consumption.	Assessment exit surveys and instructor evaluations.	Expected course mean of 6.5 out of 10 on exit survey.
6. Knowledge of the interplay between preferences and institutions for shaping political outcomes.	Assessment exit surveys and instructor evaluations.	Expected course mean of 6.5 out of 10 on exit survey.
7. Comprehension of	Assessment exit	Expected course mean of 6.5 out of 10

the multiple motivations and constraints underlying political behavior.	surveys and instructor evaluations.	on exit survey.
8. Identification of the multi-causal nature that characterizes the social world.	Assessment exit surveys and instructor evaluations.	Expected course mean of 6.5 out of 10 on exit survey.

3. Results, conclusions, and discoveries. What are the results of the planned assessments listed above? What conclusions or discoveries were made from these results? Describe below or attach to the form.

Results, conclusions, and discoveries
Attached is a summary of the course means (out of a possible 10) for the assessment surveys that were administered to all lower division courses (PSC 100, 101, 200, 211, 231, and 302) required for the undergraduate major in political science during the fall of 2005. The general conclusion that was drawn from these data is that students' performance on the assessment surveys corresponds with their performances in the course, as the surveys means are more-or-less akin to the overall course means. Perhaps, more importantly, the results indicate that courses that attract primarily students who are not political science majors (PSC 100 and 101) were less likely to meet expectations. Specifically, only one of the two sections of PSC 100 and four of the eighteen sections of PSC 101 had course means above 6.5 on the exit surveys. In contrast, classes that primarily attract political science majors did much better. For instance, both sections of PSC 302 and PSC 200 and all three sections of PSC 231 exceeded expectations. The only exception to this pattern was PSC 211 where all three sections did not meet expectations (it should be noted that there were some problems with the survey instrument used in these courses that have subsequently been addressed). It should be noted, however, that the assessment instrument used in the fall (a ten question survey specific to each course that taps into the student learning outcomes summarized above) is under going refinement and thus, because of the preliminary nature of the instrument used in the fall of 2005, any conclusions drawn from these data should be tempered. Beginning in the spring of 2006, students in these courses are to be surveyed at both the start and end of the term. As such, this arrangement will allow the department to develop a better indication of student leaning by comparing the results of the survey administered at the start of the term with those conducted at the end of the term. Also, beginning in the spring of 2006, all students who complete their degree in political science are required to complete a program exit survey that will provide the department with additional data to determine the degree to which the program is meeting the student learning outcomes.

4. Use of Results. What program changes are indicated? How will they be implemented? If none, describe why changes were not needed.

In the coming terms, as additional data are collected and the survey instruments are
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refined, the department anticipates having sufficient information to begin to implement program changes. Of particular interest is determining if the differing performances between classes that primarily attract political science majors as compared to those that do not persist. Also, additional data, particularly, the pre-test,/post-test surveys being used in the spring of 2006, should allow for assessments of differences between courses taught by part time instructors and full-time faculty and those classes that are offered once a week, as compared to those classes taught twice a week.

5. Dissemination of results, conclusions, and discoveries. How and with whom were the results shared?

The information was distributed to all instructors teaching undergraduate courses in the Department of Political Science, as well as the Dean's Office in the College of Liberal Arts. In addition, the results of the exit surveys for fall 2005 are posted on the Department of Political Science web page.

**Political Science Assessment Exit Survey Results, Fall 2005**

Course	Course #	N	Mean
Nevada Constitution	<u>100.0M3</u>	45	6.3
Nevada Constitution	<u>100.0M6</u>	42	6.8
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.001</u>	55	7.3
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.002</u>	53	5.9
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.003</u>	59	6.8
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.004</u>	47	5.4
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.005</u>	46	6.1
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.006</u>	48	6.2
Introduction to American Politics	<b>101.008</b>	125	5.9
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.009</u>	37	5.3
Introduction to American Politics	<b>101.010</b>	56	5.6
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.012</u>	44	6.0
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.013</u>	47	7.0
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.014</u>	53	6.1
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.015</u>	50	6.2
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.017</u>	47	6.1
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.018</u>	18	5.6
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.019</u>	47	6.2
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.020</u>	43	6.6
Introduction to American Politics	<u>101.021</u>	43	5.7
Survey of Political Theory	<b><u>200.001</u></b>	33	6.7
Survey of Political Theory	<b><u>200.002</u></b>	27	7.5
Comparative Government and Politics	<u>211.001</u>	30	4.8
Comparative Government and Politics	211.002	38	5.8
Comparative Government and Politics	211.003	25	5.5
World Politics	231.001	31	8.2
World Politics	231.002	44	8.0
World Politics	<u>231.003</u>	30	7.2
Research Methods in Political Science	302.001	14	7.0
Research Methods in Political Science	302.210	11	7.0

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Total Number of Students Surveyed 1288

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Note: Assessment survey was not administered to PSC 101 sections 7, 11, and 16. Surveys for PSC 211 consist of nine valid questions, instead of ten (reported values for PSC 211 are adjusted to a ten point scale to facilitate comparisons). Underline = one day a week courses; italics = part time instructors; bold = visiting assistant professors.