

## **Assessment Plan**

Program: Political Science, MA

Assessment Coordinator for the program: Dr. David F. Damore

Department Responsible for the Program: Department of Political Science

Five-Year Implementation Dates: 2004-2005 to 2009-2010

Is this program accredited by an external organization? No

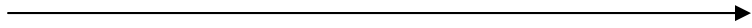
### **1. Student Learning Outcomes for the program.**

1. Upon completion of the program students will further develop critical thinking skills necessary for the evaluation of social science concepts.
2. Upon completion of the program students will further develop persuasive writing skills (e.g. the ability to articulate, support, and defend an argument).
3. Upon completion of the program students will further develop knowledge of the research process in the social sciences (e.g., differences between normative and empirical perspectives; the differences between probabilistic and deterministic reasoning; and the differences between the major analytical approaches used in applied research).
4. Upon completion of the program students will further develop the skills and knowledge needed for informed information consumption.
5. Upon completion of the program students will further develop an understanding of the obligations and expectations of citizenship.
6. Upon completion of the program students will further develop knowledge of the interplay between preferences and institutions for shaping political outcomes.
7. Upon completion of the program students will further develop knowledge of the multiple motivations and constraints underlying political behavior.
8. Upon completion of the program students will further develop an understanding of the multi-causal nature that characterizes the social world.
9. Upon completion of the program students will be able to apply the social science research process.
10. Upon completion of the program students will have knowledge of the theoretical and methodological development and controversies within the discipline.
11. Upon completion of the program students will be socialized at an introductory level into the discipline of political science.
12. Upon completion of the program students will gain familiarity with teaching in a post-secondary setting.

## 2. Curriculum Alignment of Student Learning Outcomes.

Graduate

Required  
Courses



Learning  
Outcomes



PSC 710 Seminar in American National Gov't	PSC 702 Research Methods II	PSC 740 Seminar in International Relations	PSC 719 American politics: Opinion & Behavior	PSC 701 Research Methods I
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Critical thinking and evaluation of social science concepts	E,R	E, R	E	E	E
Persuasive writing skills	E,R		E	E, R	E
Knowledge of the social scientific research process	E,R	E, R	E, R	E, R	E, R
Informed information consumption	E	E	E	E	E
Obligations & expectations of citizenship	E			E	
Knowledge of the constraints & motivations for political behavior	E		E	E, R	
Multifactorial causality	E	E, R	E	E, R	E
Application of research process	E	E	E	E, R	E
Comprehension of development and controversies	E,R		E	E	E
Socialization into the discipline	I	I, E	I	I, E	I
Familiarity with post-secondary education	I,E,R				

I = Introduced E = Enriched R = Reinforced

## 2. Curriculum Alignment of Student Learning Outcomes.

Graduate

Required  
Courses

Learning  
Outcomes

PSC 729 Policy Studies	PSC 750 Seminar in Comparative Polities	PSC 760 Seminar in Mid East and North Africa	PSC 746 Seminar in Mid East in World Affairs	PSC 747 Seminar in Pacific Rim
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Critical thinking and evaluation of social science concepts	R	I, E,R	E, R	E,R	E
Persuasive writing skills	E, R	E	E, R	E, R	E
Knowledge of the social scientific research process	E, R	E	E,R	E, R	E
Informed information consumption	R	I,E	I, E	I, E	E
Obligations & expectations of citizenship	I, E	R	R	R	
Knowledge of the constraints & motivations for political behavior	E	I	I	I	E
Multifactorial causality	E	I,E,R	E,R	E,R	E
Application of research process	E	R	E, R	E, R	E
Comprehension of development and controversies	E	I,E,R	I,E,R	I,E,R	E
Socialization into the discipline	I,E	I,E,R	E,R	E, R	I
Familiarity with post-secondary education	I	I	I	I	I

I = Introduced E = Enriched R = Reinforced

**3. Evidence/Artifacts used to assess Student Learning Outcomes over the 5 year period of this Plan.**

Student Learning Outcomes for the Program	Methods/Instruments (Direct and Indirect) to be used	Expected Measures from the Methods/Instruments	When and where will the Methods/Instruments be administered and data collected?
1-10	Thesis project	Qualitative measures of students' engagement	By thesis committee during and after students' oral defense
1-10	Comprehensive examinations	Quantitative measures of students' engagement (e.g., grades) and qualitative comments by exam committee	By exam committee after completion of exams
1-10	Course assignments	Quantitative measures (e.g., grades) and written feedback	On-going by individual faculty members
11	Class discussions and informal advising	Qualitative measures of students' engagement	On-going by individual faculty members
12	Service in department as teaching assistants	Qualitative measures of students' engagement	On-going by individual faculty members and on-going oversight of teaching assistants by Graduate Coordinator

**4. Dissemination of Information over the 5 year period of this Plan.**

Student Learning Outcomes for the Program	Who will analyze the data?	When, where, and how will the results be disseminated to stakeholders?
1-10	Graduate Coordinator	Periodically, at department faculty meetings
1-10	Assessment Committee	Periodic updates of department web page detailing progress of graduate students
11	Individual faculty members	Periodic, informal discussions among faculty members
12	Individual faculty members and graduate program coordinator	Periodic, informal discussions among faculty members