

Spring 2018
Core Curriculum Assessment Report

of

Skills 2 – Critical Thinking

from the

US History / Government

Core Curricular Area



submitted by

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on behalf of the

US History / Government
Core Area Assessment Committee

Methods

How was student work (artifacts) collected for assessment?

After identifying a face-to-face, an on-line, and a concurrent section to assess, artifacts were collected from faculty for each format.

What type of artifacts were collected?

Written work, such as papers, exams, or document analyses.

How were the artifacts sampled for assessment?

Assessors considered sets of artifacts from whole classes.

How were the artifacts scored?

Assessors analyzed artifacts following a shared rubric on a four-point scale.

How was reliability in scoring determined and ensured?

Each artifact was scored individually by two different faculty members to ensure reliability.

Reflection

What was learned from the assessment results?

HIST 2311 and 2312: While the committee's current methods of assessment worked well for previous educational goals (Knowledge 1, Knowledge 2, Skills 1, etc.), it became clear that these methods may be less well suited to other educational goals, such as Skills 3 ("information technology").

POLS 1310: While the scores for critical thinking were not out of line with our expectations, they do suggest that there is a need to put a greater emphasis on teaching students to think critically in our classes.

Continuous Improvement

What changes will be made based upon the assessment results?

HIST 2311 and 2312: Discussions are currently ongoing about how to revise assessment methods for the “Values” educational goals that will be assessed next semester.

POLS 1310: We are having discussions about the types of assignments that can be used to better evaluate learning about how to use information technology. The assignments scored for this semester were not really geared toward that goal, so we need to rethink them before this skill comes back up in the next cycle.

Feedback

What changes are recommended for Core assessment?

None.

Comments

Other comments?

No.

END OF REPORT