

2021-2022 Assessment Cycle

## Assessment Plan

### Mission Statement

Consistent with the missions of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Political Science offers students the opportunity to deepen and broaden their knowledge of the theories and functions of politics, policy and governance which regulate the civic interactions of both peoples and sovereignties in the United States of America and internationally. Students enrolled in the offerings of the department will learn to critically examine the laws, organizations, political practices and public behaviors/involvements in the workings of governments both foreign and domestic. Through engaged teaching, guided practical involvement, and mentored scholarly research, faculty contribute to the intellectual development of students who acquire skills for the examination and understanding of the discipline. In addition to the academic/classroom experience, opportunities are provided for observation, participation in, and assessment of the political environment through internships, field study, and the opportunity to experience and interact with public officials, analysts and policy experts through course offerings and events.

### Measures

#### BA - Political Science Outcome Set

PSLO 1

##### **Outcome: Basic knowledge of political institutions and processes**

Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the political institutions and political processes of the governments of the United States.

- ▼ **Measure:** Political Institutions and Processes  
*Course level Direct - Exam*

Details/Description:	PO106, PO107 both incorporate exams to measure how well students understand basic knowledge of political institutions.
Acceptable Target:	70% of students are expected to pass this exam upon exiting these courses.

## PSLO 2

### **Outcome: Basic knowledge of international political issues**

Demonstrate a basic knowledge of international political issues, international organizations, and the world political economy.

#### ▼ **Measure:** International Politics Assessment *Course level Direct - Exam*

Details/Description:	Students will complete a quiz in PO225 that will be administered at the start and finish of the course. The goal of the quiz is to test student retention of some of the key aspects of this course.
Acceptable Target:	70% of students are expected to successfully pass this quiz upon exiting the course.

## PSLO 3

### **Outcome: Basic knowledge of other national governing systems**

Demonstrate a basic knowledge of other national governing systems, and other national and regional group perspectives of political power and political economy through the application of the techniques of comparative politics.

#### ▼ **Measure:** Comparative Politics Assessment

*Course level Direct - Exam*

Details/Description:	Students will take a "PO 235 Basic Facts Quiz" during the first and last weeks of class. The goal of the quiz is to test students' retention of some of the key aspects of the course, as it pertains to other national governments and other main goals of the course.
Acceptable Target:	70% of students are expected to be able to successfully complete this quiz.

PSLO 5

**Outcome: Basic knowledge of principles and problems of complex organizations**

Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the principles and problems of complex organizations and processes associated with public and civil society administration.

▼ **Measure:** American Government Focus  
*Course level Direct - Exam*

Details/Description:	Students in PO 106 and 107 will complete a basic knowledge quiz which will cover material specific to these courses. In this quiz, students will be asked to display their knowledge the principles and problems of complex organizations and processes associated with public and civil society administration.
Acceptable Target:	70% of students are expected to pass this quiz.

▼ **Measure:** International Government Focus  
*Course level Direct - Exam*

Details/Description:	Students enrolled in PO 235 and PO 225 will take
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Acceptable Target:

pre and post quizzes to assess how much they have learned about the principles and problems of complex organizations and processes associated with public and civil society administration.

70% of students enrolled in these courses are expected to successfully pass these quizzes.

## PSLO 6

### **Outcome: Ability to interpret meaning and significance of quantitative and qualitative data**

Demonstrate the ability to interpret the meaning and significance of quantitative and qualitative data, and possess a basic understanding the methodologies associated with gathering such data.

#### ▼ **Measure:** American Government Focus *Course level Direct - Student Artifact*

Details/Description:

Students in PO 106 are expected to complete an assignment in which they design polling questions, ask people their questions, and assess the data they receive.

Acceptable Target:

75% of students are expected to successfully complete this task.

## PSLO 6

A fundamental understanding of the policy making process and the impact policies have on citizens.

### **Outcome: Ability to understand the policy making process**

Demonstrates the ability to grasp the policy making process as well as how policy impacts people.

▼ **Measure:** American Government Focus

*Course level Direct - Exam*

Details/Description: Students will complete a quiz in this course designed to test general knowledge of concepts like the policy making process.

Acceptable Target: 70% of students are expected to successfully pass this quiz.

▼ **Measure:** American Government Focus

*Course level Direct - Student Artifact*

Details/Description: Students will engage in a series of in-class activities designed to help them practically apply the theoretical policy concepts taught in lecture and readings.

Acceptable Target: 75% of students are expected to engage in, and complete, these in-class activities.

▼ **Measure:** International Government Focus

*Course level Direct - Exam*

Details/Description: Students are introduced to the concepts of international law in PO225. As such, they will be asked questions in a pre- and post-test regarding this topic.

Acceptable Target: 70% of students are expected to successfully pass the post-test quiz.

Data are collected and analyzed for PSLO 1 every semester and for PSLOs 2-6 annually.

## Stakeholder Involvement

**DEVELOPMENT.** The Faculty Liaison (Dr. Amber Dickinson) was appointed August 2019. She, along with the other department members and chair, have worked to create tools that will allow for appropriate assessment of course offerings.

**IMPLEMENTATION.** Faculty submitted their first U-SLO reports for PO 106 in the Fall of 2013. However consultations with Drs. LaLonde and Margaret Wood have led to considerable revisions in this test instrument. Faculty insisted that the National Citizenship Exam be blended and merged with the item questions for the Gen Ed SLO, and implemented in the Spring and subsequent courses. Drs. Hamilton, Beatty, Modellmogg, and Cann will

administer this revised Gen Ed U-SLO assessment and PSLO 1 assessment in PO 106 this Spring 2014. Drs. Beatty and Modellmogg will also implement U-SLO and PSLO assessments in both PO 225 and PO 235 in Spring 2014.

Drs. Hamilton and Peterson will administer the first Gen Ed SLO assessments for PO 107 in the Fall of 2014 (revisions underway). The end of June 2014 report will contain these data summaries of this Implementation of both U-SLO and PSLO assessment in these required courses.

PSLO/U-SLO combined data gathering assessments will also be administered next academic year 2014-15 by the Faculty in all the above required courses of PO 106, 107 (every semester), 225, 235 (alternating semesters), plus in 2014-15 the REMAINING required Major courses of: 245 (once a year), 390 Quantitative Research (once

a year) and 450 Senior Seminar (every Spring Semester, for graduating seniors), 307 (once a year), and GG 120 (once a year). PSLO and U-SLO "measures" together will comprise 30% or more of total final exam points, and are mostly a mix of lower and higher learning Direct Measures, as follows.

G = gen ed.

M = degree major requirement.

M# = major requirement option vs other course options (106 or 107; any three of 225/235/245/275).

G/M# = both a gen ed and major requirement.

BEGINNING TIME: \* Other Assessment

PSLO / USLO National US ACAT Nat'l

Test Questions Embedded Exercises Citizenship Exam Polit. Sci. Exam

PO 106 G/M# (Sp '14) Yes No Yes ---

(F '14) Yes Yes Yes ---

PO 107 G/M# (F '14) Yes Yes No ---

PO 225 G/M# (Sp & F '14) Yes Yes No ---

PO 235 G/M# (Sp & F '14) Yes Yes No ---

Geog 120 G (2014-15) Yes Yes No ---

PO 245 G/M# (2014-15) Yes Yes No ---

PO 275 M# not taught until 2016-17 to be determined

PO 307 M# (Sp 2015) No \* Performance Assessment No ---

PO 390 M (2014-15) Yes Yes; No \* RESEARCH Presentation

PO 450 M Sp 2015 Yes No No \*YES; \* Exit Interviews

\*YES; \*Outside Reviewers

**PERIODIC REVIEW.** Now through next year 2015, individual and all-department faculty meetings will be held.

All faculty participating. Future review and revision for the next two academic years will come mainly by means of individual meetings between Dr. Hamilton, and individual faculty.

The BPA program courses ASSESSEMENT Plan details will be worked out in academic year 2014-15 (plan

submitted April 30 2015; implementation and data gathering in years 2016-18) by Drs. Hamilton and Peterson (the only 2 fulltime faculty in Public Administration) as the Political Science Plan is being implemented. See the BPA Assessment Plan submission for more details.

Improvements: Each Fall and Spring Dr. Dickinson will call a faculty meeting, and also Dr. Dickinson will engage in individual meetings with faculty, to conduct on-going reviews and improvement suggestions. \*Graduating student and alumni exit interviews will be added for both Majors (see above).

### Program Assessment Plan Review Cycle

The Program Assessment Plan is reviewed every other year. Changes were made to the Assessment Plan in FY14.

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