CSU PUEBLO

2023 Academic Program Assessment Report

Political Science

Program current assessment plan here:	
Program prior assessment report here:	

Report Completed By:	Joel Johnson
Date Report Completed:	5/31/2023
Faculty members involved in this Assessment:	Joel Johnson

Please describe this year's assessment activities and follow-up for your program below. Please also submit any addenda such as rubrics which are not available in your assessment plan. The reports will be available to the Dean of your college/school and to the Executive Director for Assessment as well as faculty peer reviewers.

Brief Statement of Program Mission and Goals:	The major in political science leads to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS). The political science curriculum focuses heavily on the development of analytical and communication skills – along with a comprehensive knowledge of public policy, politics, current events, and history – and as such prepares undergraduates for a wide range of in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Courses in political science also serve to complement the liberal arts core at CSU-Pueblo and to prepare students for acceptance into graduate and professional programs. Program Goals To prepare students majoring in the discipline to: • Demonstrate a basic understanding of historical, philosophical and empirical foundations of political science; • Demonstrate a general command of knowledge about the American political system, global studies, the history of political thought, and standard political science research approaches; and • Demonstrate an ability to continue personal study and learning on an independent basis about specific subjects in the discipline.

I. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in this cycle. Including processes, results, and recommendations for improved student learning. Use Column H to describe improvements planned for the year based on the assessment process.

A. Your program SLOs are pasted here verbatim from your assessment plan. Please enter info in columns B-H only for those assessed during this annual cycle.	B. When was this SLO last reported on prior to this cycle? (semester and year)	C. What method was used for assessing the SLO? Please include a copy of any rubrics used in the assessment process.	D. Who was assessed? Please fully describe the student group(s) and the number of students or artifacts involved (N).	E. What is the expected proficiency level and how many or what proportion of students should be at that level?	F. What were the results of the assessment? (Include the proportion of students meeting proficiency.)	G. What were the department's conclusions about student performance?	H. What changes/improvements to the program are planned based on this assessment?
Knowledge Outcome 1: Students should have factual knowledge ofmany aspects of politics and government that are central objects of study in each of the subfields in political science (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory).	Spring 2022	DIRECT MEASURE 1: one or more ranked faculty member(s) will assess both SLOs in one (or more) course per academic year via a comparison of a pre-test and a post-test that are offered to the same students. INDIRECT MEASURE 1: From students' anonymous course evaluations of at least one core course per year. In particular, aggregate responses to Q18: "Learned from the course" will be reported. INDIRECT MEASURE 2: in a survey of seniors, students report on whether they learned in the program.	DIRECT MEASURE 1: students in three lower-division sections: 101 -Fall and Spring, 202 Spring. About 50 students total. (See appended "2023 POLS assessment pre-post-tests and q18") INDIRECT MEASURE 1: data from five core courses. (See appended "2023 POLS assessment pre-post-tests and q18") INDIRECT MEASURE 2: data from N=11 seniors. (See appended "2023 POLS seniors survey - results")	DIRECT MEASURE 1: the average posttest score will exceed the average pretest score. INDIRECT MEASURE 1: the program expects that at least 50% of enrolled students (or respondents) respond "Strongly Agree" or "Agree," and it expects that at least 75% of students respond "Strongly Agree," "Agree," or "Neutral." (The response "Neutral" may indicate to a student that a course is on par with other courses.) INDIRECT MEASURE 2: the program expects at least 80% of students to report that they were satisfied with how much they learned in the program.	All results were consistent with our program goals. DIRECT MEASURE 1 (pre-test vs. post-test), almost all students showed great knowledge improvement, and the average increase in scores was considerable in each class. In the three sections, the average change in scores were +8.2, +12.3, and + 16.3%. INDIRECT MEASURE 1: the statistics were consistent with program goals. For the five classes, 55% of students said "strongly agree", 80% said "agree". INDIRECT MEASURE 2 (survey of seniors), the test statistics were consistent with the program's goal. 91% of seniors said that the program succeeded in KO1, and 82% of seniors said that the program succeeded in KO2.	Students are succeeding, and the program is succeeding.	None. Although there is always room for improvement, the assessment results point to no deficiencies that demand attention.
Knowledge Outcome 2: Students should be able to explain coredebates (or scholarly theories and perspectives) in the subfields of political science.	Spring 2022						
Writing Outcome: Students should be able to write papers on topics in political science that (a) exhibit clear prose and correct grammarand (b) present a central argument in a clear and coherent structure or fashion.	Spring 2021	DIRECT MEASURE 1: students' papers in the POLS 493 capstone are assessed according to the writing assessment rubric. INDIRECT MEASURE 1: in a survey of seniors, students report on their perceived writing improvement.	DIRECT MEASURE 1: Final papers submitted by 10 students in POLS 493, taught by Prof. Liebel during Spring 2023. INDIRECT MEASURE 1: data from N=11 seniors. (See appended "2023 POLS seniors survey - results")	DIRECT MEASURE 1: At least 80% of students will receive an average score of 2.5 or above, signifying that they are proficient across the four categories in the rubric. INDIRECT MEASURE 1: At least 80% of students will report that the program succeeded in its writing outcome goal.	DIRECT MEASURE 1: The metric was met. 90% of the students received scores of 3.0 or higher. Also, the grammar and prose were also proficient, and the average score were 3.5 and 3.4 in those two categories, respectively. INDIRECT MEASURE 1: 100% of students said that the program succeeded in its writing outcome goal.	The program is succeeding in honing students' writing skills. We expect as much, as the program is writing intensive.	None. But this type of assessment will continue.
Critical Thinking Outcome 1: Students should be able to identify and critique the assumptions, logic, and evidence in both scholarly and lay political arguments.	Not assessed this cycle						
Critical Thinking Outcome 2: Students should be able to use empirical observations and analytical reasoning to articulate and defend compelling, non-fallacious arguments.	Not assessed this cycle						

Comments on part I:								

II. Closing the Loop. Describe at least one data-informed change to your curriculum during the year cycle. These are those that were based on, or implemented to address, the results of assessment from previous cycles.

A. What SLO(s) or other issues did you address in this cycle? Please include SLOs verbatim from the assessment plan, as above.	B. When was this SLO last assessed to generate the data which informed the change? Please indicate the semester and year.	C. What were the recommendations for change from the previous assessment column H and/or feedback?	D. How were the recommendations for change acted upon?	E. What were the results of the changes? If the changes were not effective, what are the next steps or the new recommendations?
see comments below				

Comments on part II:	Over the past two years, the POLS program has not made changes to the program that relate directly to assessment data and reports. However, the program has made a number of changes in order to better advance program goals and SLOs. The most relevant of these, especially for this assessment cycle, is the introduction of a new writing course, POLS 251. The course is simultaneously a scope and methods course and a writing seminar. It is designed to provide an intensive writing experience that helps students greatly improve their writing. The course was first taught in Spring 2022.

PRE-TEST V. POST-TEST RESULTS

2023-Spring-101

pre-test	post-test	improvement
93.333	93.33333	0.00
73.333	86.66667	13.33
80	93.33333	13.33
80	86.66667	6.67
93.333		
93.333	86.66667	-6.67
73.333	93.33333	20.00
80	80	0.00
80	93.33333	13.33
40	86.66667	46.67
53.333	93.33333	40.00
93.333	93.33333	0.00
93.333	73.33333	-20.00
46.667	80	33.33
86.667	86.66667	0.00
53.333		
66.667	93.33333	26.67
66.667	93.33333	26.67
80		
86.667	93.33333	6.67
86.667	93.33333	6.67
46.667	80	33.33
86.667	73.33333	-13.33
66.667		
	Avg change	12.33

2023-Fall-101

pre-test	post-test	improvement
80		
40	80	40
80		
86.6667	86.6667	0
60	80	20
86.6667		
	86.6667	
73.3333	100	26.6667
73.3333	100	26.6667
73.3333		
100	100	0
46.6667		
86.6667	100	13.3333
93.3333		
93.3333	100	6.66667
93.3333	93.3333	0
33.3333	73.3333	40
100	93.3333	-6.66667
100	100	0
60	0	-60
Avg change	8.20513	
pct impro	0.53846	

2023-Fall-202

pre-test	post-test	improvement
87.5	87.5	0
100	100	0
100	75	-25
50	100	50
43.75	87.5	43.75
50	100	50
56.25	50	-6.25
62.5	100	37.5
75	87.5	12.5
87.5	100	12.5
100	75	-25
50	75	25
31.25	68.75	37.5
Avg change		16.34615385
Pct impro		0.85

COURSE REVIEWS - Q18 Learned in course

Course	Semester	N respondents	% strongly agree (Q18)	% agree (Q18)
101	Fall	4	50	75
202	Fall	2	100	100
250	Fall	2	0	50
101	Spring	6	25	75
251	Spring	3	100	100
	Averages:		55	80

Note: there are few respondents in these reviews, but they include three courses which underreport the agreement in the program as a whole -- two online sections of 101, and 250, which is a statistics course.