

2021-2022 Assessment Cycle

## Assessment Findings

### Program Assessment Accomplishments

Overall, there have not been significant changes since our last assessment cycle. We have found, as a department, that students are meeting the measures we have put in place. That being said, we have had significant changes in the makeup of our faculty since our last official report. However, those changes appear to have no significant impact on the assessment outcomes. Students are meeting the markers we have set in place. I do recommend that the department as a whole meet in the fall semester to discuss assessment in general.

### Finding per Measure

#### 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.

##### Findings for Political Institutions and Processes

Summary of Findings: We have met the standards set.

Results :	Acceptable Target Achievement: Exceeded
Recommendations:	We should continue to monitor results to ensure we are consistently hitting the 70% mark.
Reflections/Notes:	Moving forward, the department should continue discussions about whether quizzes are the best way to assess our students. Conversations about test anxiety, etc. are important to have considering not all students do well one one type of assessment. For example, some students may do better with a written test as opposed to a multiple choice exam.

## 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.

#### Findings for International Politics Assessment

Summary of Findings:	Students are successfully passing the post-test at a rate of 70% or higher.
Results :	Acceptable Target Achievement: Exceeded
Recommendations:	Continue to think about other potential ways to assess this particular item. The department should brainstorm and discuss if this is truly the best measure. That being said, the measure seems effective and does not necessarily need to change.
Reflections/Notes:	

### 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.

#### Findings for Comparative Politics Assessment

Summary of Findings:	Students are successfully passing the end of semester quiz regarding basic knowledge of other national governing systems.
Results :	Acceptable Target Achievement: Exceeded
Recommendations:	Consider whether a quiz is the best way to measure this for all students. Is there another type of student archive that might give us more information about to what degree of understanding about other governments our students really have.
Reflections/Notes:	While I do recommend some thought be given to this particular assessment tool, that does not necessarily mean it is not a good measure. It simply means it is worth a conversation to continue our thoughts on how to assess this.

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

#### Findings for American Government Focus

**Summary of Findings:** Students are meeting this marker successfully. However, there seems to be some inconsistencies with the rate of success across classes.

**Results :** Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

**Recommendations:** I am suggesting a different type of assessment be used to really get at this particular topic. A student archive of some type would give us a more in-depth look at how much students are really digesting this type of information.

**Reflections/Notes:** If the department does not agree with my recommendation, we should at least consider adding additional questions to the quizzes that would give us more information about this item.

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

**Details/Description:** Students enrolled in PO 235 and PO 225 will take 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.

**Acceptable Target:** 70% of students enrolled in these courses are expected to successfully pass these quizzes.

#### Findings for International Government Focus

**Summary of Findings:** We are seeing that students are successfully

Results :

meeting the goal we have set for this measurement tool.

Recommendations:

Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

I recommend the faculty member responsible for administering this measure review the questions to make sure they are still matching with lectures and readings. Much of this information may have changed over time, and it would be good to make sure the questions are still accurately reflecting the material presented in class.

Reflections/Notes:

See above.

## 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 the receive.

Acceptable Target:

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

#### Findings for American Government Focus

Summary of Findings:	Students overwhelmingly do well on this particular task. Students consistently show enthusiasm and interest for this particular task.
Results :	Acceptable Target Achievement: Exceeded
Recommendations:	The department should discuss if this particular measure could be used in other courses that discuss this topic.
Reflections/Notes:	

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.

Findings for American Government Focus

Summary of Findings:	Students in 106 complete a quiz that includes information about the policy making process. To date, students are meeting the expectations.
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Results : Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations: I think this would be better assessed using a student archive as opposed to quiz questions. The quiz does not ask enough questions over this topic to really gauge how much students are retaining about this topic.

Reflections/Notes: I would like to see an archive used as the assessment for this measure moving forward.

▼ **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.

Findings for American Government Focus

Summary of Findings: Students perform very well on these tasks. Overall, this seems to provide a more accurate snapshot of student performance on this topic as opposed to quiz questions.

Results : Acceptable Target Achievement: Exceeded

Recommendations: I recommend keeping this tool as opposed to going back to a quiz.

Reflections/Notes:



▼ **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.

**Findings for International Government Focus**

Summary of Findings:	Students appear to do a good job of retaining the information presented in this portion of the course, as evidenced by their ability to accurately recall information on the quiz.
Results :	Acceptable Target Achievement: Met
Recommendations:	I do not see a need for changes to this measure at this time.
Reflections/Notes:	

**Overall Recommendations**

I would like to implement a more streamlined way for faculty members to report on their assessment measures. There needs to be a more efficient way for me to gather evidence of success or evidence that we need to make improvements. That should be my personal focus moving forward.

## Overall Reflection

My focus for the next academic year will be to fine-tune how we handle our assessment. I plan on reviewing in depth all

assessment tools and will create a way for faculty members to effectively and efficiently report the results of their course assessments.

We have had significant losses in our department with the passing of Dr. Cann and Clark Duffy. Additionally, we no longer have our lecturer and will be conducting a search for the replacement. When that happens, I will need to re-evaluate some of our Public Admin courses.

## Faculty Collaboration

We need to establish a regular meeting time (ideally at least once per semester) to brainstorm several things:

1. We need to streamline how I get information regarding student performance on assessment tools.
2. If the assessment tools we currently use are really the best way to get at what we are trying to measure.

## Communication & Collaboration with Students

No text specified

## Communication & Collaboration with External Stakeholders

No text specified

## Communication & Collaboration with University

No text specified

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