Program Assessment Plan
American University
Academic Program: CAS: Anthropology - BA

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Contact Person for Assessment: R. Dent (Chair)
Unit's Primary Department: Anthropology
COLA Reader -1: Melissa Becher
COLA Reader -2: Kathy McAdams
Have updates been provided in June 2013?: Yes
Does 2013 report reflect changes in your LOs?: No
Contact Person for Assessment (Copy): Bryan McNeill
Other comments about report or plan status (Copy):
June 2013 report says capstone projects will be analyzed for Fall assessment. Attached in documents section.

Learning Outcome: General Anthropology Knowledge
Knowledge of the major figures and debates that have shaped the discipline from its development in the late 19th century through the present.

Outcome Year:
- 2008-2009
- 2009-2010
- 2010-2011
- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013

Start Date: 09/01/2008
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Target</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning in Spring 2009, the undergraduate capstone course was designed in specific ways to measure &quot;first learning outcome&quot; a broad rubric designed called &quot;The Anthropology of Power&quot;.</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<td>Measure Type:</td>
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Learning Outcome: Theoretical Knowledge
Familiarity with the major theoretical movements that have influenced anthropology.

Outcome Year:
- 2008-2009
- 2009-2010
- 2010-2011
- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013

Start Date: 09/01/2008
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

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<td>Undergraduate Capstone Course designed in specific ways under a broad rubric of the course title &quot;the Anthropology of Power&quot;</td>
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Learning Outcome: Integrating Theory with Empirics
Ability to engage theoretical concepts and integrate them with empirical observations.

Outcome Year: 2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012
2012-2013
Start Date: 09/01/2008
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

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<td>each class meeting began with two brief student presentations. Over the semester each student was responsible for presenting a &quot;thought provoking idea&quot; from any class, current events, or future exploration of an idea from the capstone course.</td>
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Measure Type:
Presentation

The course included original student research projects that invited students to bring their own specific topical, theoretical, and geographic interest into the general structure.

Measure Type:
Final Paper/ Final Project

A portfolio of "reflection papers" constituted the primary assessment of the desired outcome of the BA program. Both discreet and cumulative, students prepared reflection papers each week based on the previous reading assignment and in-class discussion. The paper offered students the opportunity to not simply summarize, but to extent their own thoughts on the relevant topics and explore questions they may not have asked in class. At the end of the semester, students submitted their papers from throughout the semester together with a summary reflection in which they directly engaged their own thought process and ideas and questions that they encountered and developed over the semester.

Measure Type:
Other

Learning Outcome: Critical Thinking
Demonstrate critical thinking in both oral and written analyses of anthropological debates.

Outcome Year: 2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012
2012-2013
Start Date: 09/01/2008
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

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Measure Type:
Other

The course included original student research projects that invited students to bring their own specific topical, theoretical, and geographic interest into the general structure.

Measure Type:
Final Paper/ Final Project

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Learning Outcome: Communicating
Think critically about different ways a background in anthropology can be applied to major issues in contemporary society and the student's own life.

Outcome Year: 2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012
2012-2013

Start Date: 09/01/2008
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

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Measure Type:
Presentation

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Measure Type:
Other
### Learning Outcome: Inquiry

Use key ideas from those debates classic and contemporary debates in anthropological theory to develop problem statements, plans for data-gathering and data-analysis, and statements of conclusion/implications while ethnographic/archeological research.

**Outcome Year:** 2007 and prior  
**Start Date:** 04/01/2009

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<td>These aggregate values will allow us to set criteria defining effective levels of performance on learning outcomes, e.g.: How many students satisfied the expectations of each learning outcome with an aggregate score of 3.0 or better? Was the mean aggregate score for the student cohort higher or lower than the idealized (3.0) mean? Since this is the first year we have carried out the assessment, we need to see the overall profile of the student scores for each learning outcome, before making further statements about the outcomes being met.</td>
<td>Cycle is every spring. Reader scores will be averaged to obtain an aggregate scoring for each outcome. These values allow us to propose improvements in undergraduate anthropology instruction. If, for example, the aggregate scores for one of the learning outcomes is far lower than the aggregate score for the other learning outcomes, we may infer that students are not as familiar with the academic content associated with the learning outcome. (There may be other reasons for the lower scores, of course, and those causes also need to be explored.) We need to review the courses in the undergraduate curriculum in which the outcome-related academic content is addressed and, as appropriate/lesson plans, to ensure that students are receiving appropriate instruction. The reviewers will report to the undergraduate studies committee and to the department council.</td>
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**Measure Type:** Written Assignment

Meeting between undergraduates and undergraduate committee to discuss the extent to which learning outcomes have been met.  
**Measure Type:** Other  
No target identified.  
Every year in the fall.  
Yes

### Related Courses

- ANTH - 450 - Anthropology of Power

### Learning Outcome: Theory

Demonstrate familiarity with the major arguments shaping the classic and contemporary debates in anthropological theory.

**Outcome Year:** 2007 and prior  
**Start Date:** 04/01/2009

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Assessment Plan

**Assessment Measure**

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**Measure Type:**

Written Assignment

**Target**

outcome with an aggregate score of 3.0 or better?

Was the mean aggregate score for the student cohort higher or lower than the idealized (3.0) mean?

Since this is the first year we have carried out the assessment, we need to see the overall profile of the student scores for each learning outcome, before making further statements about the outcomes being met.

**Schedule/Cycle**

Active

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**Active**

Yes

Meeting between undergraduates and undergraduate committee to discuss the extent to which learning outcomes have been met.

**Measure Type:**

Other

No target identified.

Every year in the fall.

**Related Courses**

- ANTH - 450 - Anthropology of Power

**Learning Outcome: Communication**

Summarize findings from research projects in written, oral, visual media or other format.

**Outcome Year:** 2007 and prior

**Start Date:** 04/01/2009

**Assessment Plan**

**Assessment Measure**

Evaluation of each student's "Reflection Paper Portfolio" in spring semester ANTH-450 Anthropology of Power (Senior Capstone Seminar).

The portfolio consists of weekly reflection papers, developed each week, in which students address an issue of theory (Outcome 1), use theory to interrogate a research problem (Outcome 2), and/or apply research findings to an issue in the public domain (Outcome 4). All papers require students to construct summary statements and demonstrate other written language skills (Outcome 3).

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Meeting between undergraduates and undergraduate committee to discuss the extent to which learning outcomes have been met. No target identified. Every year in the fall. Yes

**Related Courses**

- ANTH - 450 - Anthropology of Power

**Learning Outcome: Praxis**

Apply findings, as summarized, to critical issues in contemporary society.

**Outcome Year:** 2007 and prior  
**Start Date:** 04/01/2009

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**Measure Type:** Other

**Related Courses**
- ANTH - 450 - Anthropology of Power