

Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: SIS: International Affairs: US Foreign Policy - MA

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Contact Person for Shoon Murray

Assessment:

Unit's Primary Department: US Foreign Policy

COLA Reader -1: Chana Barron

COLA Reader -2: Betsy Cohn

Learning Outcome: Theory

Describe and distinguish among the major schools of thought in USFP and exhibit ability to apply them to explain policy events.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measures: Course products: written final exam and/or research paper. Measure Type: Written Assignment	95% of students exhibit basic knowledge of major theoretical perspectives, using a random sample of final exams and/or research papers from previous two semesters of SIS 689 "Foreign Policy: Theories of Decisionmaking."	Reviewed Spring 2010 (completed). Review next Spring 2013.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Course evaluations for required courses. Measure Type: Survey	75% of students indicate that the learning objectives for the course are clear and that the assignments contribute to meeting those objectives.	Reviewed Spring 2010 (completed). Review next Spring 2013.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Student focus groups. Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns. Measure Type: Focus Group	No target identified.	Review annually in May.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Institutions and Processes

Describe and distinguish among the institutions and processes at the core of foreign policy decision making and exhibit ability to apply them to explain foreign policy events.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measures: Course research products, professional exercises, and exams. Measure Type: Written Assignment	95% of students exhibit basic knowledge of major institutions and processes, using a random sample of final exams (or if necessary papers) from previous two semesters of SIS 682 "Foreign Policy: Institutions and Processes."	Reviewed Spring 2010 (completed). Review next Spring 2013.	Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Indirect Measure: Course evaluations for required courses. Measure Type: Survey	75% of students indicate that the learning objectives for the course are clear and that the assignments contribute to meeting those objectives.	Reviewed Spring 2010 (completed). Review next Spring 2013.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Student focus groups. Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns. Measure Type: Focus Group	No target identified.	Review annually in May.	Yes

Learning Outcome: History

Describe the major continuities and changes in US foreign relations, especially since the turn of the 20th century.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measures: Course research products, professional exercises, and exams. Measure Type: Written Assignment	95% of students exhibit basic knowledge of broad trends in US foreign relations, using a random sample of final exams (or if necessary papers) from previous two semesters of SIS 653 "Change and Continuity in US Foreign Policy" and HIST 661 "US Foreign Relations since 1914."	Reviewed Spring 2011 (completed). Review next Spring 2014.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Course evaluations for required courses. Measure Type: Survey	75% of students indicate that the learning objectives for the course are clear and that the assignments contribute to meeting those objectives.	Reviewed Spring 2011 (completed). Review next Spring 2014.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Student focus groups. Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns. Measure Type: Focus Group	No target identified.	Review annually in May.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Economics

Apply concepts and theories from international economics to explain the workings of and issues of USFP.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measures: Course research products, professional exercises, and exams. Measure Type: Written Assignment	95% of students exhibit basic knowledge of international economics as it applies to the institutions and tactics of the United States, using a random sample of final exams (or if necessary papers) from previous two semesters of SIS 615 "Fundamentals of US Foreign Economic Policy."	Reviewed Spring 2011 (completed). Review next Spring 2014.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Course evaluations for required courses. Measure Type: Survey	75% of students indicate that the learning objectives for the course are clear and that the assignments contribute to meeting those objectives.	Reviewed Spring 2011 (completed). Review next Spring 2014.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Student focus groups. Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns. Measure Type: Focus Group	No target identified.	Review annually in May.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Contemporary Debates

Analyze contemporary foreign policy debates and issues.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Randomly drawn student work from all classes taught by full-time faculty (except for our theory class). Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	95% of students do a good job or better of analyzing contemporary foreign policy debates.	Reviewed Spring 2012. Review next Spring 2015.	Yes
Course syllabi. Measure Type: Other	75% of syllabi cover contemporary debates.	Reviewed Fall 2011 (completed). Review next Spring 2015.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Student focus groups. Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns. Measure Type: Focus Group	No target identified.	Review annually in May.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Professional Skills

Demonstrate selected professional skills (e.g. analyzing policy issues, writing policy memos, coordinating team-based projects, giving policy briefings).

Outcome Year: 2012-2013

Start Date: 09/25/2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Short professional written work in the form of a policy brief or executive summary and the oral presentation of that work. Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	95% of students earn a good or better evaluation from participating faculty.	Reviewed Spring 2012. Review next Spring 2015.	Yes
Course syllabi Measure Type: Other	75% of syllabi include exercises that hone professional skills such as memo writing, formal briefing, or simulations.	Reviewed Fall 2011 (completed). Review next Spring 2015.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Student focus groups. Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns. Measure Type: Focus Group	No target identified.	Review annually in May.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Research, Analysis and Writing

Execute academic research or professional analytical projects that integrate empirics and theory, as appropriate, and write their findings in a clear and effective manner.

Outcome Year: 2012-2013

Start Date: 09/25/2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measure: Sample of SRP's from those students choosing that capstone option; and sample of practica written products from students choosing the other capstone option. Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	95% doing superior or good work.	Faculty will review at the end of every spring semester.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Student focus groups. Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns. Measure Type: Focus Group	No target identified.	Review annually in May.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Language

Proficiency in a foreign language.

This is a learning outcome for all SIS graduate students but is outside our field of control

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Program Outcome

Learning Outcome: Concentration

Students can chose a concentration in national security policy or in a related field (drawing on courses from International Politics, Comparative and Regional Studies, International Communication, International Peace and Conflict Resolution, International Development, International Economic Policy, Global Environmental Politics).

This learning outcome is for all SIS graduate students but it is outside of our field of control.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Archived Learning Outcome

