

Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: SIS: International Affairs: International Politics - MA

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Unit's Primary Department: Intl Politics/Intl Econ.

COLA Reader -1: Betsy Cohn

COLA Reader -2: Chana Barron

Learning Outcome: Major Schools of Thought

Students will be able to demonstrate an ability to distinguish among the major schools of thought in the field of international relations, and be able to apply these theories to explain international phenomena.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010

Start Date: 11/17/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct measure: The SRP faculty members will review a random sample of SRPs using a rubric of specific criteria and scores of "excellent," "satisfactory," and "poor." Measure Type: Written Assignment	At least 70% of the criteria are scored as satisfactory or better.	Data will be collected each spring and summer, and results discussed by faculty in the September field meeting or earlier. Our discussion will produce changes to the curriculum improve areas where results are weak.	Yes
Indirect measure: Zoomerang survey of graduating students. Measure Type: Survey	No target identified.	Data will be collected each spring and summer, and results discussed by faculty in the September field meeting or earlier. Our discussion will produce changes to the curriculum improve areas where results are weak.	Yes
Three senior faculty review Final Exams for the International Relations Theory course (601) to assess whether the learning objective was met Measure Type: Focus Group	At least 70% of the exams must confirm that the Learning Objective is being met in this course.	Fall 2012	Yes

Learning Outcome: Research Projects

Students will be able to produce research projects that demonstrate an ability to integrate theory and empirics using strong writing and analytical skills.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/17/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
The SRP faculty members will review a random sample of SRPs using a rubric of specific criteria and scores of "excellent," "satisfactory," and "poor." Measure Type: Written Assignment	At least 70% of the criteria are scored as "satisfactory" or better.	Data will be collected each spring and summer, and results discussed by faculty in the fall semester program meeting or earlier. Our discussion will produce changes to the curriculum improve areas where	Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Indirect measure: Zoomerang survey of graduating students. Measure Type: Survey	No target identified.	results are weak. Data will be collected each spring and summer, and results discussed by faculty in the fall semester program meeting or earlier. Our discussion will produce changes to the curriculum improve areas where results are weak.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Basic Facts and Debates

Students will be able to master basic facts, concepts, and central policy debates in their primary field within IP.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/17/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Learning Outcome: Speaking Skills

Students will be able to develop speaking skills that show an ability to clearly and effectively convey their knowledge.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/17/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
We invited IP students to present a major research paper to a panel of five four faculty members. Each student had 10 minutes to present, followed by 10 minutes of Q&A. The faculty scored each presentation on a scale of 1-5 (1 is the lowest, 5 is the highest) in the following categories: ability to succinctly state the research question; clear explanation of key findings; persuasiveness about academic significance and/or policy relevance of findings; professional quality of presentation (appropriate dress, oral delivery and articulation, visual aids); ability to answer questions directly and thoughtfully. Measure Type: Other	We wanted the average scores for each category to be 3 or higher.		Yes