

Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: SIS: International Affairs: Natural Resources and Sustainable Development - MA

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Unit's Primary Department: Global Environ Politics

COLA Reader -1: Betsy Cohn

COLA Reader -2: Chana Barron

Learning Outcome: Theory

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will be able to describe and distinguish among the major schools of thought for explaining Global Environmental Politics

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2011

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Comprehensive Exam (Questions specifically about schools of thought) Not assessed in 2011-2012; comp exam has been phased out Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam			No
Substantial Research Paper that demonstrates familiarity with relevant literature. Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	80% to attain a level of 2 or better on (revised) scale of 1-3 (insufficient, sufficient, proficient). --Based on *Depth of knowledge of the literature and *Ability to convey a clear argument	Annual	Yes

Learning Outcome: Research Methodology

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will develop and deploy appropriate methods to execute research projects.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Student ability to apply appropriate methods; adequacy of discussion of methods Measure Type: Written Assignment	80% to attain 2 or better on (revised) scale of 1-3 (insufficient, sufficient, proficient). Based on *Ability to integrate information and *Ability to convey a clear argument	Annual	Yes
Faculty Consultation: Adequacy of student-faculty consultation starting project, ongoing contact, addressing problems, timely completion Measure Type: Performance	75% to be considered Adequate out of Adequate/Inadequate measure	Annual	Yes

Learning Outcome: Substantive Knowledge

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will be able to process substantive knowledge of Global Environmental Politics and within a subfield.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2011

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Comprehensive Exam that asks students questions about substantial knowledge in the field. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7 based on the quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and the ability to integrate information and convey it with a clear argument.	Annual	Yes
Substantial Research Paper that demonstrates familiarity with relevant substantive knowledge. Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7. Based on quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and ability to integrate information and convey it clearly.	Annual	Yes

Learning Outcome: Communication

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will develop verbal and written communication skills to effectively convey knowledge.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
(Written) 1) Quality of writing first semester- SIS 660 papers Measure Type: Written Assignment	80% to attain a level of 2 or better on (revised) scale of 1-3 (insufficient, sufficient, proficient).(based on a random sample of papers from SIS 660)	Annual	Yes
(Written) Quality of writing displayed in policy memos written for SIS 620 (Policy Analysis for GEP) Measure Type: Written Assignment	80% to attain a level of 2 or better on (revised) scale of 1-3 (insufficient, sufficient, proficient).	Annual	Yes
(Written) 3) Quality of writing concluding- SRPs & Comprehensive exams Measure Type: Written Assignment	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7	Annual	Yes
(Verbal) 1) Presentation of SRP Measure Type: Presentation	80% to attain level of 3 or better on (revised) 1-5 scale survey, based on Faculty survey of students presenting research results in an ?SRP Day? presentation.	Annual	Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
[we are dropping this measure, which anticipated audience surveys, as it has proved infeasible?] Measure Type: Presentation		Annual	No

Learning Outcome: Intermediate Spanish

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will be able to speak, write, and read Spanish at the Intermediate level.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Spanish Test. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	100% to attain a level enabling them to carry out internships.	Every two years -- admissions criteria to be re-evaluated based on results, beginning Spring 2011.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Critical Literacy

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will develop critical literacy in the main techniques used in the field of Global Environmental Politics.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Substantial Research Paper that demonstrates a critical literacy in the main techniques used in the field of GEP Measure Type: Written Assignment	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7 based on quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and ability to integrate information and convey it with a clear argument.	Annual	Yes

Learning Outcome: Professional Practical Skills

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will develop experiential knowledge in the policy making process

Outcome Year: 2011-2012

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
student evaluation from internship supervisor Measure Type: Field Work/ Internship	80% to receive strong positive evaluations from internship supervisors(all of those doing internships).	Every five years	Yes

Learning Outcome: Policy Experience

Graduate students in International Affairs: Natural Resources & Sustainable Development will develop experiential knowledge in the policy making process.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Internship evaluation from internship supervisors. Measure Type: Field Work/ Internship	80% to receive strong positive evaluations based on supervisor's perceptions of the student's strength and weaknesses in the professional setting (all of those doing internships).	Every five years	Yes