

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

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 research products, professional exercises, and exams. Measure Type: Written Assignment | 95% of students exhibit basic knowledge of major theoretical perspectives, using a random sample of final exams (or if necessary 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 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 2011 (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: 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 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 2011 (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: 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 |
| Course syllabi. Measure Type: Other | 75% of syllabi cover contemporary debates. | Reviewed Fall 2011 (completed). Review next Spring 2012 using better measure of student sample work. | 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, giving policy briefings).

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 |
| 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 2012 with better measure of sample student work. | 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 and Writing

Execute research projects that integrate theory and empirics and analytical skills and write their findings in a clear and effective manner.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

| Assessment Plan | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--------|
| Assessment Measure | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Direct Measure: Sample of SRP's (those students who participated in the Capstone Conference) and MA theses. 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