

Unit Effectiveness Plan for 2003-2004
Department(Unit): Political Science
College (Division): Dean - College of Liberal Arts

Unit Mission or Purpose:

The Department of Political Science serves the widest possible range of students at the University, including all lower-level undergraduates in the University, upper-level undergraduates with major or minor areas of concentration in Political Science, and graduate students enrolled in the M.A. in Political Science, the M.P.A., or a few related Ph.D. programs. At each level, the Department's mission is to challenge the student in the context of a student-centered environment that maintains the broad educational goals of a liberal arts education while preparing the student for a life-long process of education in a professional career. The Political Science faculty, through its research, professional activities, and community service is constantly striving to contribute to the body of knowledge in our discipline and to disseminate that knowledge to our students and to the larger community.

Articulation of how unit mission/purpose relates to University mission:

As one of various academic units in the University serving a wide range of students, the Department of Political Science furthers the University mission by offering a sound and rigorous curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels and by emphasizing the University's values of diversity, responsibility, inquisitiveness, and quality through its teaching, research, and service.

Intended outcome	Related Institutional Goal/Objective/Strategy	Action Steps	Method of Assessment (Who, What, When)	Results of Assessment	Proposed Changes and Recommendations for Improvement	Resources Needed for Proposed Changes
Departmental faculty will produce significant original research that leads to publication and contributions to the scholarly literature in their fields of expertise.	Strategy 4A	The Department will provide resources (travel, computer, staff, and the like) for the faculty's research activities. The Department will create an environment that emphasizes original research as a major faculty objective. The Department will have each faculty member annually submit a list of their research activities in the	"Research scores" will be assigned to each faculty member with a score of "1" for each convention paper; "3" for each article submitted; "4" for each article published; "3" for each book manuscript submitted; and "8" for each book published. The Departmental goal will be to have a Departmental average "Research score" of at least "1."	Departmental average was 2.1	Increased M&O (already in place) will greatly assist faculty in research efforts.	None

		previous year.				
Departmental faculty will enhance the University's profile in the general community through service to the University, the community, and the profession.	Strategy 3C	The Department will encourage (through providing infrastructural assistance) faculty service.	Each faculty member will be asked to list annually their service activities for the previous year. The Department's Executive Committee will evaluate these activities on a 1-to-10 scale (with 1 being clearly unacceptable and 10 being superior). The goal of the Department is to have a Departmental average of "5."	Departmental average was 6.4	None	None
All Political Science majors will receive accurate and timely information about degree requirements, academic standards, and University academic policies.	Strategy 2B	The Department will create an advising structure headed by the Departmental Advisors and Chairperson, along with Undergraduate and Graduate Associate and Assistant Advisors. Office hours will be publicized for all of these individuals, and information will be disseminated through classes and in the Political Science office.	All students advised by the faculty will be asked to complete a 4-6 point satisfaction survey. The Departmental goal will be to achieve a 80% satisfaction level.	Satisfaction level was 85%	Department will provide a student handbook on the web site.	None
BA - Political Science						
Student Competencies:						
Students completing POLS 3310 will demonstrate computer proficiency in terms of word processing, spread sheets, email, internet,	Strategy 3A	Professors in POLS 3310 will insure that the pedagogical objectives in each section of this course are designed to achieve the outcomes stated here--with	Each student in POLS 3310 will achieve an acceptable ("has achieved") rating on the (1) data analysis and (2) word-processing/spread-	All students achieved acceptable ratings	None	None

and statistical data analysis.		even more specific attention given to social science research skills: hypothesis testing, literature reviews, data analysis, and report writing.	sheet/email/internet section of the 3310 assessment form. The Departmental Assessment Committee will evaluate the results submitted by individual faculty.			
Students completing a 3000- or 4000- level Political Science course will demonstrate sufficient oral competency as required for graduation by the University.	Strategy 3A	The Department will require all majors to complete Speech 1301 (or equivalent). Also, faculty teaching any of the relevant courses will require students to use appropriate organization and presentation skills in a formal oral report.	The Departmental goal will be to achieve an average score of "B" (3.0) on a 4-point (A, B, C, D, and F) point scale evaluating each student's oral presentation in terms of (1) organization and (2) presentation skills. The grades for each area will be averaged for the final score. Individual faculty in the relevant courses will conduct the assessment.	All of the students that were evaluated did achieve the average score of "B."	None	None
Students will be able to critically summarize at least one major theory in the discipline of Political Science.	Strategy 3A	All faculty in advanced undergraduate Political Science courses will require students to synthesize at least one theoretical perspective.	A random sample of 50 students in advanced undergraduate classes will be evaluated by their professors on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their critical synthesis of a major theory.	All students were judged to score satisfactorily-- though some concerns were raised in terms of weak areas in comparative politics/Middle East.	Additional classes in comparative/international politics	Addition of new faculty member in Middle East/Comparative Politics
Students will be able to analyze a particular problem or policy in terms of stated goals or outcomes. To be	Strategy 3A	All faculty in advanced undergraduate Political Science courses will require students to analyze rigorously one policy.	A faculty committee will evaluate student portfolios on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their capability to analyze	To be assessed in 04-05.		

assessed in AY 2004-05.			policy.			
Students will be able to contrast different value approaches to a common issue. To be assessed in AY 2004-05.	Strategy 3A	All faculty in advanced undergraduate Political Science theory courses will require students to evaluate value positions.	A faculty committee will evaluate embedded assessment measures from advanced Political Science theory courses on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their ability to contrast values.	To be assessed in 04-05.		
MA - Political Science						
Student Competencies:						
Students will be able to produce a survey of the literature in a defined area. To be assessed in AY 2003-04.	Strategy 3A.	Faculty in graduate Political Science seminars will require students to produce a survey of the literature in an area of their interest related to that seminar.	A faculty committee will evaluate embedded assessment measures from graduate Political Science seminars on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their ability to survey the literature in a particular area. All students should score at least 5 or above.	All students produced satisfactory scores	None	None
Students will be able to create a research design to examine a specific hypothesis. To be assessed in AY 2003-04.	Strategy 3A.	Faculty in graduate Political Science seminars will require students to create a research design regarding a specific hypothesis in an area of their interest related to that seminar.	A faculty committee will evaluate embedded assessment measures from graduate Political Science seminars on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their ability to produce a research design in a particular area. All students should score 5 or above.	All students produced satisfactory scores-- however, the average score was just at the minimal level	Incorporate more work on research designs in the Methods class.	None.
Students will be able to collect original data. To be assessed in AY 2003-04.	Strategy 3A.	Faculty in graduate Political Science seminars will require students to collect data regarding a	A faculty committee will evaluate embedded assessment measures from graduate Political Science	All student scores were at or above the satisfactory	Incorporate more experience in the gathering of original data for the graduate students.	None

		specific hypothesis in an area of their interest related to that seminar.	seminars on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their ability to collect data in a particular area. All students should score 5 or above.	level--however, weaknesses were noted in organizing the data.		
Students will be able to analyze data/information in order to reach a conclusion. To be assessed in AY 2004-05.	Strategy 3A	Faculty in graduate Political Science seminars will require students to analyze data regarding a specific hypothesis in an area of their interest related to that seminar.	A faculty committee will evaluate embedded assessment measures from graduate Political Science seminars on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their ability to analyze data in a particular area. All students should score 5 or above.	To be assessed in 04-05		
Students will be able to present the results of a research project both in written and oral form. To be assessed in AY 2004-05.	Strategy 3A.	Faculty in graduate Political Science seminars will require students to present the results of their research regarding a specific hypothesis in an area of their interest related to that seminar.	A faculty committee will evaluate embedded assessment measures from graduate Political Science seminars on a ten-point scale designed to evaluate their ability to present research results in a particular area. All students should score 5 or above.	To be assessed in 04-05.		

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