

## Course Outcomes Guide

**Directions:** Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

**Course/Program Title:** POL-102 State and Local Government

**Date:** Spring 2011

**Course/Program Team:** Spring Ward

### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

- A. Critically examine the structures, processes and functions of our governmental institutions within the states.
- B. Assess the various ways our state and local governments impacts the citizens.
- C. Illustrate how individuals can make a difference politically both locally and in the nation.

**Assessment** (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?)

*Bill Drafting Project.* As the culminating exercise for our course study, the students are required to research and draft an original legislative bill. We then hold a week-long (three hour) mock legislative session in the classroom.

I have also used pre- and post- tests.

**Validation** (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

Periodically, I have local politicians informally evaluate the project.

**Results** (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)

Mean scores over time (per semester) from the pre and post tests indicate some improvement and end of the semester grades usually correlate with the post test scores. Many students, however, are academically under-prepared and, in regards to politics, many do not normally follow current events.

Students consistently respond favorably to participation in the mock legislative session. They have, however, requested more time and instruction to assisting in the completion of their tasks.

**Follow-up** (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

Students are now given an expanded bill drafting packet and a formal bill drafting session is also now regularly scheduled with librarian LuAnn Fisher. I have also added a preliminary assignment in which they analyze the current bills sponsored by the Washington County Delegation in the General Assembly.

I plan on consistently using the pre- and post- tests to more accurately determine their full value as assessment tools. Statistic through 2010 indicate academic progress.

**Budget Justification** (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?) Not Applicable