Program 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.

Course/Program Title: Political Science   **Date:** June 2017

Course/Program Team: Dr. Eric Schwartz

Expected Learning Outcomes

A. Understanding of issues in political science.

B. Understanding political mechanisms and institutions relevant to issue followed.

C. Communication of events and complex ideas.

D. Willingness to investigate and understand opposing points of view.

E. Comprehends the importance of diversity within US society and political system.

Assessment: Students maintain a news journal through the each term, following one topic in particular. During the term, they discuss this topic regularly in class, facing contrary points of view on the topic. At the end of the term, they write a short essay that explains what they learned about the topic and how it relates to US politics. The essays are assessed on the five-point set of criteria.

Validation (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)
The program assessment is reviewed periodically by the fulltime faculty. Internal validation includes analysis of the data collected, as well as comparisons between the assessment data and the outcomes of other types of exercises assigned in this course. Results from assessments seem to yield data that is generally consistent from semester to semester.

Results (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)
A score of three or higher was necessary for a student to achieve the desired outcome. The results for the academic year 2016-2017 follow:

Spring 2017:

	Outcome #1	Outcome #2	Outcome #3	Outcome #4	Outcome #5
Class Average:	3.9	4.1	4.3	3.7	4.2
% with 4 or higher:	72	90	86	82	86

Follow-up (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)
I will be adding regular news quizzes to ensure that people are reliably keeping their news journals. Also, I will be pairing students together to discuss topical issues. I will aim to pair students who are of opposing views, so that they have to work together and understand each other.
IS3 at VSADMIN\VLADMIN\SLOA\Templates

Budget Justification (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?)
No additional resources are necessary at this time.