

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: GEO-105 World Regional Geography

Date: Spring 2017

Course/Program Team: Suzannah Moran

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- I. Critically analyze current and historical cultural concepts effecting different regions of the world and the inter-relationships between these regions.
- II. Assess current socio-economic, cultural and political issues resulting from the interactive and opposing forces of homogenization and diversification.
- III. Examine geographic factors that have influenced the student's life on a global, national and local level.

General Education Outcomes:

The student will be able to:

- Analyze how varying conditions of the physical and/or cultural environment contribute to human diversity.
- Reflect on their developing self-awareness of diverse populations and viewpoints as well as how it impacts the way they interact with a changing world.

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

Assessments include a research based Current Events Project which culminates in a class presentation and an essay. The students are instructed to incorporate Google Earth imagery as well as authoritative source materials into their projects. Map quizzes and course examinations are also used to assess student mastery of the outcomes.

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

The Current Events Project is assessed using a rubric which has been shared with and reviewed by other Behavior and Social Science faculty as well as the seven member General Education Diversity team. Similarly, most of the open and closed-ended examination questions have been peer-reviewed and revised to facilitate the development of geographic perspectives and related problem-solving skills.

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

Analysis found that 82% of students scored at or above 75% on the Current Events Assignment components that assessed mastery of the first student learning outcome (n=173). 84.2% of students scored at or above 75% on the Current Events Assignment components that assessed

mastery of the second student learning outcome. 89.3% of students demonstrated mastery of Outcome 3 by satisfactorily addressing the related prompts in essay responses on their Final Exam. The proportion of students scoring at or above 75% on the Current Events Assignment components intended to assess mastery of both the first and second student learning outcomes dropped relative to the 2016 figures. However, the percentage of students demonstrating satisfactory mastery of Outcome 3 in the final essays increased slightly.

	2016	2017	Change
SLO1	86.1%	82%	-4.1%
SLO2	89.1%	84.2%	-4.9%
SLO 3	88.1%	89.3%	+1.2%

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

I intend to continue using the Current Events Project and Rubric to assess Student Learning Outcomes 1 and 2 and to continue to use an essay question on the Final Exam to assess Outcome 3. Thanks to the assistance of library staff, I have expanded the number of resources available to students through Moodle. There are now links to sites like Ink Drop and World Newspapers which allow students access to a plethora of current, geographically-relevant authoritative resources.

I am also in the process of compiling materials for a Geography Lib Guide to facilitate student research and to instill a greater understanding of world regions and related geographic concepts. While I intend to continue to work with students to develop critical thinking skills, it is essential to ensure that those critical thoughts are informed.

Budget Justification (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?)

Not applicable.