

Course Outcomes Guide

Course Title: IST 123

Course Leader: Edward Bass

Expected Learning Outcomes for Course

1. The student will be able to critically analyze and evaluate issues derived from the social sciences utilizing appropriate methodologies. (General Education Outcome)
2. The student will be able to demonstrate how culture, society, and diversity shape the role of the individual within society and human relations across cultures. (General Education Outcome)
3. Describe the effects of technology on the changing cultural landscape.
4. Demonstrate and use software designed to help people with disabilities.
5. Identify people who have contributed to advances in diversity and technology (combined topics) and emerging technologies.

Assessment

(How do students demonstrate achievement of these outcomes?)

1. The course requires research, evaluation, and use of many types of technology:
 - a. information sharing – paragraph to report on a website for group sharing
 - b. social media – forum posts evaluate the use of social networking as a tool for diversity (and anti-diversity)
 - c. gaming – short essay on the effectiveness of diversity elements in games
 - d. forums – written discussion of diversity issues on 5 different graded forums
2. Ten quizzes and the mid-term exam are based on the textbook “Diversity Consciousness” by Richard Bucher. These quizzes are derived on the book’s ten chapters which range from building individual diversity consciousness to positive communication to diverse teamwork. The quizzes are electronically scored.
3. The second, and final exam assesses the student’s knowledge of the way technology diffuses and influences cultures. This exam is electronically scored.
4. Students write a 3000 word minimum research report on a combination technology + diversity topic of their choice. Guidance is given to encourage research on technologies that improve life for people in diverse groups. The syllabus contains a rubric for the scoring of this report.
5. The written assignment on Technology's Influence on Social History requires students to research a particular “inventor” and invention which has had an impact on the diversity of cultures. The focus is on resistance, adoption, diffusion and, finally, impact on society.

Validation

(What methods are used to validate your assessment?)

This course was originally modeled after a diversity course offered by Carol County CC in 2017. The types and quantities of assignments were closely aligned with that course. Further validation will be sought from additional external college course syllabi as well as other peer-reviewed publications.

Results

(What does the data show?)

Course Outcomes Guide

Sections taught in 2017 showed that the rigor required to achieve an A was very great. Generally speaking, the essay assignments were the lowest performing area. Student writing and research skills are an issue. Sections taught in 2018 and 2019 are showing gradual improvement. Furthermore, online course sections show better performance by students compared to conventional sections.

Follow-up

(How have you used the data to improve student learning?)

An “embedded” librarian now participates to personally offer her assistance. She also provides a video link to guide students through the course’s most heavily weighted assignment – the research report.

Budget Justification

There are no variable costs associated with the continuous improvements that are underway.