

Year Year 2

1. Identify the PLO your program assessed this academic year

3).To communicate clearly, accurately, and persuasively about political issues and ideas.

2. Identify the artifact(s) (i.e. student work) that you used to assess the PLO.

[Papers, presentations, portfolios, test items, specific assignments, capstone

Rubrics-Mike Allison developed individual and group rubrics used to assess the presentations. Mike was joined by fellow political science colleague Len Champney and CTLE Faculty Development Specialist Mary Goldschmidt in assessing the presentations. For the last-Students participated in two group presentations. The first presentation addressed the ongoing civil war in Syria. The second presentation addressed case studies described in one of the course's texts. Each group presentation was allotted 20 minutes. Students also completed two individual presentations. The first presentation was a low-stakes (ungraded) presentation on a civil war of interest to the student. This presentation occurred during the first month of the semester. The second individual presentation occurred during the last week of class and final exam period. Students were required to present the results of their research on some comparative aspect of civil wars.

3. Identify the tools (e.g. rubrics, surveys, performance on standardized test questions) used to assess the artifact(s) (i.e. student work

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4. Explain the results of the assessment activities

Comparative Civil Wars is an upper division political science course. Fourteen students were originally enrolled in the course, including eleven political science majors. Len, Mary, and I completed rubrics for each individual presentation (except the low stakes one) and group presentation. Mike spoke with Len and Mary after each set of presentations and reviewed the rubrics. In terms of presenting with PowerPoint, students clearly improved as the semester went along. Most students scored proficient or above in all areas of the rubric during their final individual presentation. We were quite pleased with the progress demonstrated by students during the fall 2015 semester.

5. Where applicable, outline the steps you will take to make improvements to the program based on the results of assessment activities identified in #3.

While Len, Mary and Mike were pleased with the progress demonstrated by the class during the course of the semester, we agreed that students should have come into the class better prepared to give individual and group presentations than they were. This was

6. Are there any new resources needed to make program improvements? If so, please include the resources and provide justification for each in the Budget section of the Annual Report.

The Political Science Department would like to hire someone who is trained in delivering oral communication and digital technology skills. There are worse things than our delivering these skills but it would be helpful if we were able to have someone more