



Political Science | 2014-2015 Assessment Plan

1. Which outcome will you assess?
 - Students will demonstrate knowledge of and ability to analyze U.S. government institutions, political processes, and behavior as well as politics in select Western and non-Western countries
 - Students will exhibit an ability to evaluate political institutions and processes from the perspective of democratic principles, including majority politics, the protection of minority rights, and the value of due process.
 - Students will employ an ability to think critically and a capacity to use political science research. This includes an understanding of social science research methods and elementary statistical concepts, and the ability to use professional resources such as journals, indexes, and government documents.
 - Students will be able to qualify for graduate study in political science, public policy, public administration, law, international affairs, or related fields or to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes, or for teaching government.
 - Students will demonstrate an ability to write clearly and effectively.
2. Which technique will you use to assess this outcome?
 - We perform embedded assessments of all written work students produce in our required UL courses for the major (research papers, debate papers, reaction papers, policy memoranda, legal briefs, etc.). It is based on the rubric (see above) that is applied to all core courses during a given semester.
3. Which course or group of students will you assess on the outcome chosen above and when?
 - Every semester we collect data (see above) on all political science students (majors only) taking required UL political science classes. In the Fall our assessed classes include:
 - Constitutional Law
 - Political Theory
 - Political Behavior
 - International Relations
 - Comparative Politics
 - In the Spring, our assessed classes are:
 - American Political Thought
 - Constitutional Law
 - Congress
 - These classes, collectively, represent all required Political Science classes, so we are assessing most our students in any given academic year.
4. Who will do the assessment and coordinate the data collection and reporting?
 - Each instructor teaching these courses will do embedded assessments in each individual course and forward them to the Chair of Political Science, who will do the final reporting for all required courses at the end of the academic year. Katia Levintova will collect and transmit Fall assessments to Dave Helpap, interim chair during Spring 2015 semester, who will do final annual reporting.