Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Critical Thinking

Through short writing assignments, students will demonstrate competency in critically analyzing arguments, pinpointing the author's goal (conclusion), and examining the premises that the author uses in support of the conclusion. Beyond this, students will demonstrate an ability to question an author's premises, examining any assumptions that the premises entail, highlighting the historical, political, cultural, or circumstantial conditions upon which the premises rest. In addition, students will be expected to arrive at a position of their own in relation to a philosophy, a style of art, and the ideas that connect the philosophy to the style of art. Here students will be expected to take into account other positions against which their own is developed, or in relation to which theirs is supported.

Relevant Associations:

Standard Associations
- New Core Component Areas
  - 4 Creative Arts (CA)
- New Core Objectives
  - 1 Critical Thinking (CT)

Strategic Plan Associations
Lamar University
14.1 To offer undergraduate and selected graduate educational experiences of excellence, both curricular and co-curricular, which engage students with faculty and staff to meet their diverse needs.
(Recruitment, retention, financial support, distance education, curriculum, academic excellence, student engagement, communication, and student life)

Related Measures

M 1: Assessment of critical thinking
We will use short written assignments to assess whether students are understanding arguments and are able critically to assess strengths and weaknesses in an argument. Using rubrics, we will assess the level at which the student grasps an argument and evaluates it.

Source of Evidence: Written assignment(s), usually scored by a rubric

Target:
We will aim for an 80 per cent acceptability rate in this area.

SLO 2: Communication

Communication will consist of two parts:

A) Writing: using their reading assignments, students will compose clear critical/analytical essays with a clear thesis and introduction, along with clear and organized supporting paragraphs. Students will also use the standard conventions of English grammar and punctuation, and will write clear and efficient sentences.

B) Speaking: Through the use of discussion groups, students will address the group, presenting their own essays to the group, responding to questions from their fellow students, and raising questions of their own concerning the essays of others in the group. Students will be assessed on posture, gesture, eye contact, and clear use of their voices, and the quality and nature of interaction with their group members.

Relevant Associations:

Standard Associations
- New Core Component Areas
  - 4 Creative Arts (CA)
- New Core Objectives
  - 2 Communication (COM)

Strategic Plan Associations
Lamar University
14.1 To offer undergraduate and selected graduate educational experiences of excellence, both curricular and co-curricular, which engage students with faculty and staff to meet their diverse needs.
(Recruitment, retention, financial support, distance education, curriculum, academic excellence, student engagement, communication, and student life)

Related Measures

M 2: Evaluating Communication in Arts and Ideas
We will assess the student's ability to articulate a thesis, and defend it, both in writing and in speaking, using rubrics that assess the level of competency in this area.

Source of Evidence: Written assignment(s), usually scored by a rubric

Target:
We will aim for an acceptability rate of 80 per cent in the area of communication.
SLO 3: Social Responsibility
In essays students will demonstrate a commitment to understanding that ideas—artistic, philosophical, scientific, political—lie at the basis of Western culture and civilization. As such students will demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of civility and civilization through their essays and also through their interaction with one another.

Relevant Associations:
Standard Associations
New Core Component Areas
4 Creative Arts (CA)
New Core Objectives
5 Social Responsibility (SR)
Strategic Plan Associations
Lamar University
14.1 To offer undergraduate and selected graduate educational experiences of excellence, both curricular and co-curricular, which engage students with faculty and staff to meet their diverse needs.
(Recruitment, retention, financial support, distance education, curriculum, academic excellence, student engagement, communication, and student life)

Related Measures
M 3: Assessing understanding of ideas in art
Through rubrics, we will test the level at which students display an understanding of the role of ideas, as expressed in art, in the development of civilization.
Source of Evidence: Writing exam to assure certain proficiency level
Target:
We will aim for an acceptability rate of 80 per cent in this area.

SLO 4: Teamwork
Students will divide into groups and determine jointly how to assess short papers. New leaders will be selected in each group session, and the leader will direct the group toward a consensus as to what to look for in a paper. Rubrics will be selected, and each student will decide on their own how each paper fulfills the rubrics. Students will have to justify their scores individually, and they will be graded by how well they apply rubrics to papers. The students grade on the paper will be assessed by the teacher at a later time. Individuals in the group will be given a grade as to how well they interact with one another and how they handle responsibilities as leaders as well as group-members.

Relevant Associations:
Standard Associations
New Core Component Areas
4 Creative Arts (CA)
New Core Objectives
4 Teamwork (TW)
Strategic Plan Associations
Lamar University
14.1 To offer undergraduate and selected graduate educational experiences of excellence, both curricular and co-curricular, which engage students with faculty and staff to meet their diverse needs.
(Recruitment, retention, financial support, distance education, curriculum, academic excellence, student engagement, communication, and student life)

Related Measures
M 4: Assessing teamwork
We will assess how students decide how to evaluate papers. Students will present their ideas orally to the group and rubrics will be used to determine the level of fairness and comprehensiveness in their assessment process.
Source of Evidence: Presentation, either individual or group
Target:
We will aim for an 80 per cent level of acceptability in this area.