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 his or her argument. 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 the argument under consideration, while taking into account other positions against which their own is developed.

Relevant Associations:

Standard Associations

New Core Component Areas
3 Language Philosophy & Culture (LP & C)

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: Writing exam for critical thinking component
We will use a short reading assignment from a philosopher, and have the student examine the argument and comment on its strengths or weaknesses. Critical thinking rubrics will be applied.

Source of Evidence: Writing exam to assure certain proficiency level

Target:
80% of students will illustrate acceptable critical thinking skills on each dimension of the rubric.

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
3 Language Philosophy & Culture (LP & C)

New Core Objectives
2 Communication (COM)

Strategic Plan Associations

Lamar University
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Related Measures

M 2: Written project for communication
We will use a short written exercise to test the student's oral and written communication skills. We will use rubrics that assess the student's progress in both areas of communication, as the student addresses a discussion group.

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

Target:
The target will be an acceptable score for 80 per cent of the class, based on oral and written presentations.

SLO 3: Social Responsibility
In essays students will demonstrate a commitment to understanding that philosophical ideas lie at the basis of Western culture and civilization. As such students will demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of civility and civilization, showing how respect for ideas, laws, and principles lies at the basis of each. In relation to this, students will recognize the concept of justice as it develops in the natural law tradition, and understand competing theories that arise out of the modern period.

**Relevant Associations:**

**Standard Associations**

*New Core Component Areas*

3. Language Philosophy & Culture (LP & C)

5. Social Responsibility (SR)

**New Core Objectives**

**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: Measuring social responsibility**

We will examine the student's understanding of the roots of ideas in culture and civilization through the use of writing assignments. Rubrics that describe levels of comprehension will be used.

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

**Target:**

We will aim for an acceptability rate of 80 per cent based on the use of rubrics.

**SLO 4: Personal Responsibility**

In essays and tests, students will demonstrate an understanding of the idea of self, as it develops in various philosophical systems, along with the problem of free-will and its philosophical justification in terms of moral responsibility. Students will also demonstrate personal responsibility by helping organize the topics for discussion in their discussion groups, as well as demonstrating leadership in presenting their ideas for a group discussion and responding to questions from fellow students in ways that show sensitivity to and respect for the viewpoint of others.

**Relevant Associations:**

**Standard Associations**

*New Core Component Areas*

3. Language Philosophy & Culture (LP & C)

**New Core Objectives**

6. Personal Responsibility (PR)

**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: Personal Responsibility Assessment**

We will assess the student's understanding of personal responsibility by their understanding of the concept of moral responsibility in relation to freedom of will. Rubrics will be used. We will also assess the student's willingness to help organize and direct discussion groups by the use of rubrics.

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

**Target:**

The target will be an 80 per cent acceptability rate in the area of personal responsibility.