SLO 1: Critical Thinking
Through short writing assignments, students will demonstrate competency in critically analyzing arguments, pinpointing the author’s goals (conclusion), and examining the premises that the author uses in support of the goal 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, highlight the historical, political, cultural or circumstantial conditions upon which the premises rest. In addition the student will be expected to arrive at a position of his or her own relation to the argument under consideration, while taking into account other positions against which the student’s 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: Assessing critical thinking in ethics
We will use short writing assignments in order to assess whether a student can pinpoint the conclusion of an author’s argument, and determine the premises of the argument. Beyond that we will determine the level at which the student can assess the premises and determine the appropriateness of those premises for the conclusion that is reached. Rubrics will be used.

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

Target:
An acceptability rate of 80 per cent in this area will be the target.

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 voice, 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
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: Assessing communication in ethics
Using rubrics, we will assess the level of competency achieved by the student in the area of writing and oral communication. We will look for specific indications of competency in the use of grammar, and in areas that are essential to oral communication techniques.

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

SLO 3: Social Responsibility
In essays students will demonstrate a commitment to understanding basic ethical theories as a form of social responsibility. 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
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 3: Social responsibility in ethics
Using rubrics we will assess the level at which students comprehend basic theories of justice and problem associated with justice.

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

Target: We will be aiming for an acceptability rate of 80 per cent in this area in the class as a whole.

SLO 4: Personal Responsibility
In essays and tests, students will demonstrate an understanding of the idea of self, as it develops in various ethical systems, along with the importance of the idea of self-development as it pertains to ethical ideal in traditional natural law theory. Students will also demonstrate personal responsibility by helping organize the topics for discussions 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 in ethics
Using rubrics we will determine the level at which students understand problem associated with the self in ethics. We will also be evaluating the level at which students personally present leadership in discussing these topics.

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

Target: We will be aiming for an acceptability rate of 80 per cent in this area.