

Capstone I AY16 Program Review: Program Outcomes and Capstone Assignment Alignment

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

- **Content Knowledge.** Assess different theories, concepts, methods, and analytical approaches employed by the disciplines of Political Science and Economics.
- **Inquiry.** Evaluate problems of empirical analysis and normative inquiry, and synthesize the two approaches in the analysis of the ideas, values, and assumptions underlying public policy issues.
 - **Applied Learning and Civic Engagement.** Apply contextual knowledge and skills to the public policy process and 'real-life' political situations via the opportunity to observe and participate as an informed citizen in a variety of on and off-campus settings.
- **Critical Thinking, Communication, and Integrated Learning.** Produce effective interdisciplinary policy analysis via the ability to recognize arguments, test hypotheses and support one's position via appropriate oral and written communications targeted for specific audiences.

Capstone Assignment

In keeping with the forward-looking nature of the course, you will be required to write a research paper (15-20 pages, plus accompanying notes, charts, tables, etc.) on a pressing contemporary topic related to the study of Terrorism. Examples of possible topics may include case studies of specific terrorist organizations, analysis of terrorist movements within particular countries, or evaluation of individual states' attempts to combat Terrorism. After consultation and approval of your topic, you will be asked to draw on a wide variety of material (books, academic journals, internet, government documents, etc.) in attempting to analyze the issue you have selected. A detailed timeline will facilitate the successful completion of this important learning experience. As part of the writing process, you will be required to submit a draft of specific segments of your term paper to one of your classmates for comments and suggested revisions. Your completed term paper must be received as a Word or Rich Text Format Document email attachment by **Monday June 12, 2017 at 8pm Pacific Daylight Time**. Unless prior arrangements are made, no late research papers will be accepted. (the paper is worth 50% of the student's final grade for the course).

Closing the Loop Statement

For the most part, Politics and Economics PLOs align well with the Capstone Assignment. However, the Civic Engagement aspect of Learning Outcome #3, above, is assessed indirectly via student ability to generate policy recommendations regarding this world-wide phenomenon. While addressing the applied learning aspect of the outcome, the civic engagement piece is indirect in the capstone assignment itself.

Action Plan

Explain how or make clear where in the curriculum Civic Engagement actually occurs. Create a capstone rubric so students can see how the PLOs are represented in the Capstone and so program faculty can identify areas of strength and where to focus improvement.