**Assessment Reporting**

Department: Social Studies Division: BEST Academic Year: 2013-14\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Report for: \_HISTORY-POLITICAL SCIENCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What action (improvement, change, etc.) was taken in the program/class indicated?

Curriculum:

New CLO common writing assignments for HI 1103 & HI 1303 were developed; common valuing assignments for PS 1103 & PS 1203 were piloted.

Teaching/Learning:

Using a new custom-made HI text for use in all three U.S. History survey courses, with more in-depth information post-1945 was investigated; adjustments to the layout & format of the Constitutions Study Module were made.

Student trends:

Investigation into means to assess critical thinking continues.

1. Why was this action taken? (Provide report, link, other, that led to the action in (1.)

Curriculum: standardization of at least one writing assignment per course will clarify what the department wants to emphasize in quality student writing, and puts all instructors on the same page in assessing student success; students were able to express their choices in public policy valuing decisions in the PS courses through an ideology survey, but assigning grades to such assignments remains problematic.

Teaching: a custom textbook may be prohibitively expensive for our students if they do not take more than one course within the department; if that course is 1303, a separate text and-or reader for that course alone may be more cost-effective. A single version of the Constitutions Module must be agreed upon to improve students’ experience.

Students: no CAAP tests were administered for department purposes in 2013-14; a course-embedded exam was contemplated but not implemented.

1. Describe the results/impact/change based on the action.

Curriculum: although reports from all sections taught aren’t in, anecdotal evidence points to an improvement in the quality of student writing; for PS 1103 & 1203 students were able to express more clearly a political philosophy (ideology) and how that philosophy would impact public policy. The ideology survey should be incorporated in all PS 1103, 1203 & 1303 sections.

Teaching:

A new text will be adopted for Fall 2014, but it may not be a custom design. If enrollment figures warrant, a separate text for HI 1303 will be added. Some aesthetic changes to the Constitution Module will be undertaken in the Summer Session, broken links to some online material will be removed.

Students:

As no standardized (nationally-normed) critical thinking exam for Social Studies has been identified, the department may need to create one, especially if CAAP testing is suspended.

1. Provide any supporting evidence or information.

There will be a supplement to this report once data is received from Institutional Research.

Submitted by:

Dennis Pohlman, Assistant Professor

History & Political Science

June 2, 2014