Course or Program Assessment Summary

This form can be used to record SLO assessment plans and results for courses or programs. It is recommended that this document be stored on a group drive, or in MyCuesta.

Division: **Social Sciences**   *Program:*   **Philosophy**   *Date:*   **updated September 12, 2013**

Courses in program, or course: *Phil 205, 206, 208, 209, 212, 213*

Faculty involved with the assessment and analysis: **Christopher Gilbert, Ph.D. CPAS prepared by Jane Morgan, Ph.D.**

Course-to-program outcome mapping document** is completed Yes__X__   No_____

1	Student Learning Outcome Statements X Program □ Course	Program Learning Outcomes: Skills Students who successfully complete a course of study in Philosophy at Cuesta College will have demonstrated: S1. An increased ability (1) to defend their own views by means of argumentation and (2) to evaluate reasoning (their own and that of others) S2. The ability to interpret primary source texts in philosophy S3. The ability to express, explain, and defend philosophical ideas in writing and/or verbally Program Learning Outcomes: Knowledge Students who successfully complete a course of study in Philosophy at Cuesta College will have demonstrated the following: K1. An understanding of the basic concerns and questions at issue in the three major branches of western philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics K2. A basic understanding of how western philosophy has changed and developed through its four major historical periods: ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary K3. An academic understanding (as opposed to a devotional understanding) of the human search for meaning through religion
2	Assessment Methods Plan (identify assessment instruments, scoring rubrics, SLO mapping diagrams)	The philosophy department has conducted student self-evaluation forms in all its courses and has analyzed that data. The data suggests that the vast majority of our students are achieving the vast majority of the outcomes for our courses. Our plan for improvement focuses on raising the lowest mean score in each course. This involves both revising some of the outcomes themselves and also increasing our emphasis on the outcomes that received the lowest score in each course. (Please see our course CPAS documents for details.) This term (Fall 2013) we are in the post-implementation SLO assessment phase of the assessment cycle. We will once again administer student self-assessment forms at the end of term. We will also include direct assessment of those outcomes on which our plan for improvement was focused. For example, since the lowest average response in PHIL 206 (Introduction to Philosophy) had to do with students understanding the historical development of

		philosophical ideas, the post-implementation SLO assessment will include the tracking of results on an assignment or test question in each section of PHIL 206 that is specifically designed to assess student achievement of that particular student learning outcome.
3	Assessment Administration Plan (date(s), sample size or selection of course sections, scoring procedures, etc.)	Assessments occurred in Spring 2010 at the San Luis Campus for sections of Phil 205 Introduction to the Bible (42 students in multiple sections), Phil 206 Introduction to Philosophy (140 students in multiple sections), Phil 208 Introduction to Logic (167 students in multiple sections), Phil 209 World Religions (48 students in multiple sections), and Phil 212 Philosophical Classics in Theory of Reality and of Knowledge (28 students). Phil 213 Philosophical Classics in Ethics and Social Philosophy was evaluated in Fall 2011 (27 students).
4	Assessment Results Summary (summarize Data)	Statistical summaries for each section and aggregated data are on file in MyCuesta Group/Philosophy. The Program and course SLO assessments showed generally high levels of student achievement across all SLOs.
5	Discussion of Assessment Procedure and Results, and Effectiveness of Previous Improvement Plans	The generally high levels of student achievement across all SLOs indicate that our courses successfully prepare students for advanced coursework in philosophy. This year's post-implementation SLO assessment (2013-2014) will reveal how effective our plan for improvement has been.
6	Recommended Changes & Plans for Implementation of Improvements	Faculty should continue to list SLOs on the syllabi and discuss them with their students. Additional consideration of the Program and course SLOs should be made when creating new assignments, exams and other course materials in order to focus student learning on the various SLOs that have been identified for the course and Program.
7	Description or evidence of dialog among course or program-level faculty about assessment plan and results	The development and implementation of the assessment process for philosophy at both the program and the individual course level have involved input from full-time philosophy faculty, part-time philosophy faculty, and the division chair. Such input has been obtained by both face-to-face discussions and email exchanges. For example, after the first round of course assessment results were obtained, the data were shared with all philosophy faculty, who in turn offered their interpretations of the data and suggestions for improving outcome achievement in the area of each course that had the lowest mean score. All such input was then incorporated into a draft of the plan for implementation of improvements, which was in turn vetted by all philosophy faculty in consultation with the division chair. A similar process will be followed with regard to the data from the current post-implementation SLO assessment.

**Course and program level outcomes are required by ACCJC to be aligned. Each program needs to complete a program map to show the alignment. See examples of completed CPAS and program mapping documents are available at http://academic.cuesta.edu/sloa

Relationship between assessed course level SLOs and Program Level SLOs.

Course	Course Name	Program Learning Outcomes					
		S1	S2	S3	K1	K2	K3
205	Intro to Bible	X	X	X			X
206	Intro to Philosophy	X	X	X	X	X	
208	Intro to	X		X			

	Logic						
209	World Religions	X	X	X			X
212	Reality and Knowledge	X	X	X	X	X	
213	Social and Political Philosophy	X	X	X	X	X	

Philosophy Program Assessment Calendar

CYCLE STAGE	Spring 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011	Spring 2012	Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2015
SLO Assessment	205 206 208 209 212		213						205 206 208 209 212 213
Analyze Results & Plan Improvements			205 206 208 209 212	205 206 208 209 212 213					
Plan Implementation					205 206 208 209 212 213	205 206 208 209 212 213			
Post-Implementation SLO Assessment							205 206 208 209	205 206 208 209	

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