

African American Studies:

African American Studies Department Assessment Fall 2017- Spring 2018 February 2019

Discussion

For 2017-2018 the African American Studies Department continued to assess (as per our revised assessment plan) the first 3 (out of 5) Core Requirement courses (AAS/HIS 179, "African American History to 1865" AAS/HIS 180, "African American History from 1865" and AAS/LIT 378, "African American Literature 1920-80") based on Learning Outcome (LO) 1. We also added AAS 282, "Race Relations" in our assessment of LO 1 in Spring 2018. Learning Outcome 1 focuses on demonstrating an understanding of the relation between race and power. We also assessed AAS/321, "Race, Gender and the News" for Learning Outcome 2. Learning Outcome 2 focuses demonstrating an understanding of how diverse identities and contexts intersect.

The Learning Outcomes for the African American Studies Majors:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relation between race and power.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how diverse identities and contexts intersect.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of Africa and its Diaspora.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how research, planning, and evaluation methods are used to expand knowledge in the field and discipline.
5. Students will develop oral and written communication with particular emphasis on persuasive argumentation supported by logic and scholarly research.

Collection methodology

We use an electronic capture, which is completed by individual instructors for each of their own students based on their own assignments—by using a checklist based on our departmental Learning Outcomes. By "electronic capture," we mean that faculty enters scores electronically into a data collection system. Individual faculty select, from among class work they already assign, which student work to score electronically. Each faculty member [or groups of faculty cohorts teaching the same class] chooses a single assignment from the semester for the specific Learning Outcome in question.

In every section of these courses, the instructor was asked to rate each student on performance on a particular assignment (see below for the questions); the assignment differed by course, so that (for instance) students in AAS 378 were evaluated on their final essay, while students in AAS 179 were evaluated on their final exam.

Data Analysis

The data submitted show that the majority of the students in our first 3 core courses successfully demonstrate understanding of the relation between race and power. The few students who were not as successful are nearly always rated as “somewhat” (2) rather than “not at all” (1). A zero indicates that the assessed assignment was missing for a student.

The data submitted for LO 2 the majority of students successfully demonstrate how diverse identities and contexts intersect.

Looking ahead, we will assess LO 4 and 5 in AAS 495 final research papers in Spring 2019.

In addition, we updated our scoring vocabulary for clarity, replacing 1) Not at all, 2) Somewhat, 3) Yes, to some extent, and 4) Yes, exceptionally well with 1) Fails, 2) Approaches, 3) Meets, 4) Excels.

We also will assess Learning Outcome 1 (for AAS 378) to have a tiered assessment, testing an early assignment, for instance “Essay 1” in AAS 378 and then at the end of the semester testing again in the Final Exam Essay. This may allow us to begin to track student learning during the course. :

DATA:

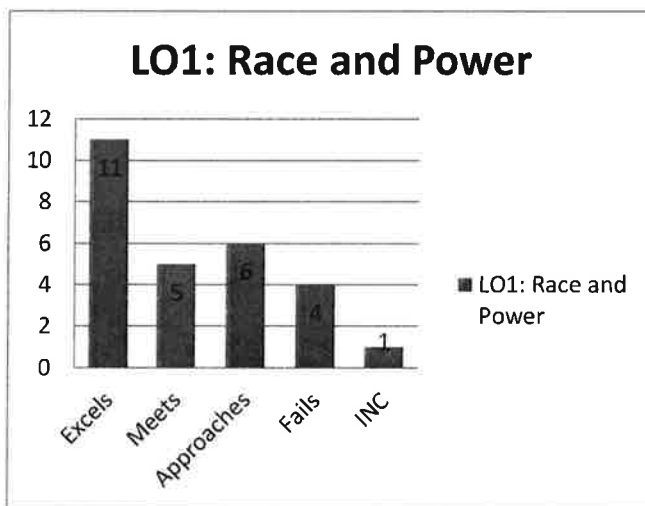
LO1: The student has demonstrated an understanding of the relationship between race and power

- 1) Fails
- 2) Approaches
- 3) Meets
- 4) Excels

ASSESSING: 1st 3 Core courses: AAS 179, 180, 378 (These courses are cross-listed: AAS 179 is cross-listed with HIS 179, AAS 180 with HIS 180 and the AAS 378 is cross-listed with LIT 378). We have decided assess all students in the course. We need the numbers for more meaningful data as our major grows. For Fall 17 we also decided to assess AAS 282/HIS 282.

1) AAS 179: Data from Sections:

Fall 2017- 01: Total Students with Responses: 27 Students, 1 incomplete

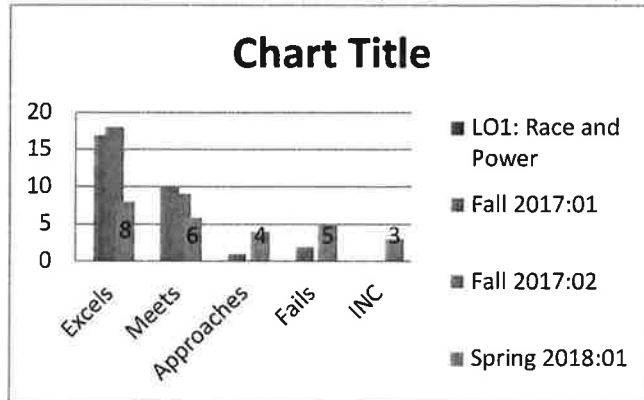


2) AAS 180 /HIS 180: Data from Sections:

Fall 2017- 01 Total Students with Responses: 30 (out of 30)

Fall 2017-02 Total Students with Responses: 30 (out of 30)

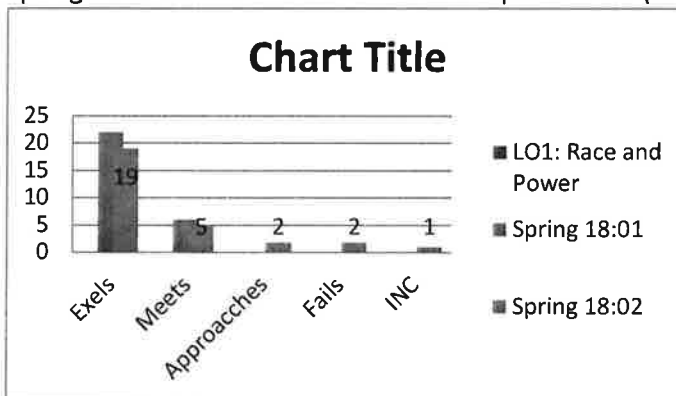
Spring 2018- 01 Total Students with Responses: 23 (out of 26, 3 Incompletes) *(7/26 AAS Majors or Minors – Professor pulled this info out)



3) AAS/LIT 378: Data from Sections:

Spring 2018: 01: Total Students with Responses: 26 (out of 26)

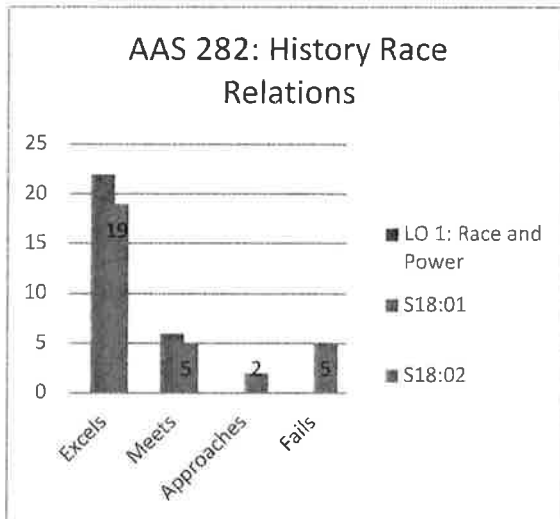
Spring 2018:02: Total Students with Responses: 27 (out of 28, 1 Incomplete)



4) AAS/HIS 282: Data from Sections:

Fall 17 2017: 01: Total Students with Responses: 27 (out of 27)

Fall 2017:02: Total Students with Responses: 27 (out of 30)



LO2: Students will demonstrate an understanding of how diverse identities and contexts intersect.

- 1) Fails
- 2) Approaches
- 3) Meets
- 4) Excels

ASSESSING: AAS 321 "Race, Gender and the News"

