

African American Studies

African American Studies Department Assessment Fall 2018- Spring 2019 February 2020

Discussion

For 2018-2019 the African American Studies Department decided to focus on assessment in our Core Requirements (AAS 179, 180 and 378- Learning Outcome 1) and Capstone (AAS 495 in S 19 Learning Outcomes 4 and 5) as these are the areas we have made or are planning to make changes to as we reconsider the start and end of the major. (In Fall 2019 AAS 499 was approved as the new capstone for the AAS major. In addition faculty in the department are working on an Introduction to Africa American Studies Course (AAS 101) as well as a Qualitative Methods Course on the 300 level).

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 “Approaches” (2) rather than “Fails” (1). (Except for AAS 179 in F 18, where 5 students of 26 received “Fails.” We will have to see whether or not the addition of AAS 101 will help and of course this could just be an anomaly. A zero indicates that the assessed assignment was missing for a student.

In Spring 2019, we had 2 students complete the capstone (AAS 495) and we assessed LO 4 and 5. Looking ahead, we will continue to assess LO 4 and 5 in the capstone (AAS 470 for Spring 2020) final

research papers in Spring 2020. We are anticipating a more meaningful result as there are 17 students

in the Capstone.

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.

1) AAS 179: Data from Sections:

Fall 2018- 01: Total Students with Responses: 23 Students, 3 incompletes

LO1: Race and Power

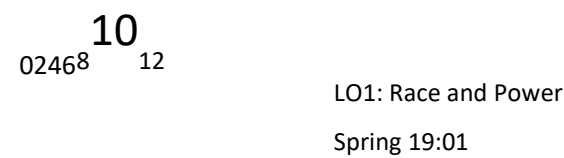
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LO1: Race and
Power

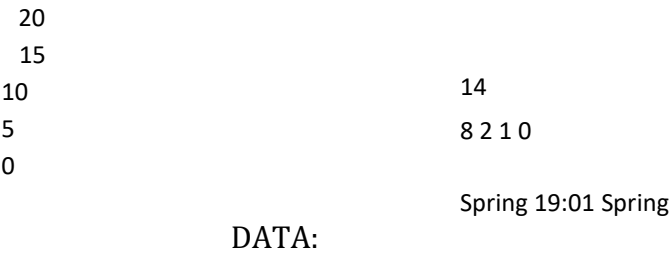
2) AAS 180 /HIS 180: Data from Sections:
Spring 2019- 01 Total Students with Responses: 27 (out of 28, 1 Incompletes)

Chart Title



3) AAS/LIT 378: Data from Sections:
Spring 2019: 01: Total Students with Responses: 25 (out of 25)
Spring 2019:02: Total Students with Responses: 25 (out of 25)

Chart Title



1. LO4: Students will demonstrate an understanding of how research, planning, and evaluation methods are used to expand knowledge in the field and discipline.
2. LO 5: Students will develop oral and written communication with particular emphasis on persuasive argumentation supported by logic and scholarly research. 1) Fails
- 2) Approaches
- 3) Meets
- 4) Excels

Spring 2019:02: Total Students with Responses: 2 (out of

2) AAS 495: Senior Capstone

2.5

2

1.5

1

LO 4 and 5

0.5 0

