

MEMORANDUM

To: Core Committee
From: Mike Stob, Director of Assessment and Claudia Beversluis, Dean for Instruction
Date: 9/23/2004
Re: Summary Assessment: SSNA Core Category, Spring 2004

The efficacy of this core course category was assessed using self-report data. Eight questions were added to the Instructional Assessment course evaluation forms, with each question linked to student learning outcome for the SSNA core. Twenty four course sections were assessed. Students responded on a Likert scale, choosing an answer from A: Strongly Agree (value = 1) to G: Strong Disagree (value = 7.) Median scores from all students are reported here, using the form that was also sent to each faculty member teaching a SSNA section. Note comments on the next page.

Section: Faculty member:	All students	Section Medians			Your median
		25%	50%	75%	
In this course, I studied the development, structure and influence of North American Social Institutions	1.78	1.59	1.86	2.11	
In this course, I developed skills in the research methods of the social sciences.	2.79	2.40	3.00	3.55	
In this course, I developed skills in written communication.	3.02	2.63	2.94	3.99	
In this course, I gained an understanding of the central theories and concepts of the social sciences.	2.22	1.97	2.25	3.86	
In this course, I gained insights into the relationship between individual identity and social institutions.	2.14	1.94	2.17	2.58	
In this course, I considered the impact of technology on North American social systems.	2.63	2.21	2.86	3.06	
In this course, I considered both the challenge and importance of striving for justice, freedom, and stewardship from a faith perspective.	2.03	1.79	1.97	2.42	
In this course, I gained insights into Christian reflections on participation in social life.	1.98	1.74	1.98	2.38	

The first column above reports the median over all student responses for that core category. The last column reports the median response for an individual section. The middle three columns summarize the distribution of section medians over all sections in the category. For example, the 1.59 in the first row indicates that 25% of all sections had a median of 1.59 or lower on that question.

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Comment: The overall median score for each learning statement suggests that these courses are, at least according to student report, effectively meeting the student learning objectives of the core. Students largely agree that they are meeting the described goals. Furthermore, variation within and between sections is relatively limited – few students would disagree that they are meeting the learning goals. Rather, variance relates to the strength of agreement.

One learning goal that received the lowest endorsement is the writing goal: “*In this course I developed skills in written communication.*” SSNA faculty should review this objective as a core goal, and consider how to strengthen student learning in this area.