

Assessment Report

Department: Sociology

Program: Criminology

Chair: Henry Pontell

Coordinator: Louis Kontos

Time Period Covered for this Assessment Review: Spring 2015

Assessment occurred in the following courses: Soc 290, Soc 308, Soc 314

The department began a yearly assessment of its required courses for the criminology major in 2011. The last assessment dealt with Soc 216 (Probation and Parole) and Soc 309 (Juvenile Delinquency). This academic year three courses are examined: Theories of Social Order (Soc 314), which is a required course, and Sociology of Violence (Soc 308) and Criminology of Deportation (Soc 290), which are both electives. The Assessment Task Force (ATF), an ad hoc committee assembled by the major coordinator, is responsible for the yearly report.

In the following report, the ATF used a sample of 20 papers from Soc 314, 20 papers from 308, and 10 final exams from Soc 290. This is the first time that the ATF has examined a course taught online (Soc 308). It is also the first time that the ATF examined an experimental course (Soc 290).

The overall scores in each category (corresponding to learning objectives) for each course were determined by averaging the scores of committee members. The learning objectives used for Soc 314 and Soc 308 were drawn from the instructor's syllabus that corresponds to the model syllabus developed in 2011. The relevant learning objectives for Soc 290 were drawn from the instructor's syllabus. The rubric of learning objectives for the criminology major, from which the course specific objectives are drawn are mapped on to course objectives.

Rubric

Learning Objectives Mapped

Soc 314 / Theories of Social Order	Soc 308 / Sociology of Violence	Soc 290 / Criminology of Deportation
<p>(LG #1)</p> <p>Students will be expected to develop thorough knowledge of the core theoretical literature of sociology that pertains to the topic of social order and control.</p>	<p>(LG # 1)</p> <p>As such students will by end of the course be able to show an understanding of #1 the literature on the various types of violence from serial killing to domestic violence and their relationship to major criminological debates, and #2 the social construction of violence.</p>	<p>(LG #1)</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>(LG # 2)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>(LG # 2)</p> <p>As such students will by the end of this course be able to show #1 a good grasp of the sociological, feminist and psychological theories of violence, and #2 be able to apply theoretical concepts to the main subject areas covered in the course.</p>	<p>(LG # 2)</p> <p>Students will develop a critical appraisal of the sociological literature on deportation and social exclusion. They will learn how to think about complex issues in an interdisciplinary way and develop the necessary writing and analytical skills to produce theoretical and data- based arguments, particularly in their research papers.</p>
<p>(LG # 3)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>(LG # 3)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>(LG # 3)</p> <p>Students will also be introduced to cutting edge research in the newly emerging field of post- deportation studies that is quickly taking place on global significance.</p>

<p>(LG # 4)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>(LG # 4)</p> <p>As such students by the end of the course will be able to show an understanding of #1 the historical, social and political context of debates on violence, and #2 policy implications.</p>	<p>(LG # 4)</p> <p>The consequences of deportation will be explored critically. Students will be expected to engage with relevant literatures pertaining to social policy implication.</p>
<p>(LG # 5)</p> <p>Students will be expected to organize their thoughts and communicate their arguments effectively in writing.</p>	<p>(LG # 5)</p> <p>As such by the end of this course students will #1 show the ability to systematically review the literature and to critique it, #2 show the ability to gather material from a variety of sources – e.g. books, journals, internet sites – and to correctly reference this material, and #3 write an essay on at least one aspect of violence covered in the course.</p>	<p>(LG #5)</p> <p>Students will complete two essay exams and a term research paper in which they are expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of course material and the ability to organize their thoughts and communicate their arguments effectively in writing.</p>

Courses Assessed

Learning Goals Assessed	Course Number	Sample Size	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaches Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
LG #1 Students will demonstrate thorough knowledge of the core literature and debates that make up the discipline of criminology	Soc 308	20	10 %	30%	40%	20%
	Soc 314	20	10%	40%	30%	20%
LG # 2 Students will demonstrate an understanding of the key components of criminological theory and the ability to apply theory to specific contexts	Soc 290	10	20%	50%	20%	10%
	Soc 308	20	20%	60%	10%	10%
LG # 3 Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods of criminological research	Soc 290	10	20%	50%	20%	10%

<p>LG # 4</p> <p>Students will demonstrate the ability to make reasoned and informed judgment on issues relating to crime and punishment</p>	Soc 290	10	30%	50%	10%	10%
	Soc 308	20	10%	50%	20%	20%
<p>LG # 5</p> <p>Students will demonstrate the ability to organize their thoughts and communicate their arguments effectively in writing.</p>	Soc 290	10	30%	40%	20%	10%
	Soc 308	20	20%	60%	10%	10%
	Soc 314	20	20%	40%	30%	10%

Conclusions

The assessment process reveals improvement in the number of students meeting expectations – albeit with a limited sample. Results from the course Criminology of Deportation warrant the consideration of making this course a permanent elective. Given the phenomenal increase in deportation for criminal offenses over recent years, the inclusion of this type of course within the major seems long overdue. Results from Sociology of Violence warrant the consideration of offering more online courses. Given ostensibly growing student demand for online courses, the successful instance of Sociology of Violence should be extended. Results from Soc 314 were solid. However committee members were concerned with the problem of substantial overlap between this course and newly developed courses in Classical Sociological Theory and Contemporary Sociological Theory. Given the creation of a separate sociology major in the department of sociology, it is worth considering repurposing this course as a course in advanced criminological theory.

Each of these recommendations will be presented to the curriculum committee of the department of sociology in the fall.

Implementation of Last Year's Recommendations

In the outcomes assessment report of 2014 the ATF recommended that Soc 216 be either repurposed or eliminated. The recommendation is currently under discussion by the curriculum committee. In the same report, the ATF recommended the offering of a greater number of writing intensive courses. The curriculum committee affirmed this recommendation. In Spring 2014 there were 4 writing intensive courses. In Fall 2014 there were 9. In Spring 2015 there were 7.

Date: July 6th, 2015.

Assessment Task Force Members: Louis Kontos, Jayne Mooney, Barry Spunt