

Cornell College
Departmental / Program Assessment Project
Progress Report

Department / Program:	Politics
Person Submitting this Form:	David Yamanishi
Date:	1 May 2012

Brief Overview of the Assessment Project: (refer to original Assessment Project Outline)

- *Outcomes you're assessing.*
- *Questions your project is attempting to answer.*

We hope to assess whether our new Politics 483 Research Seminar is helping our majors to integrate their interests within the major at a higher level than in other classes, to deal with questions of research design as they pursue independent projects, and to work across subdisciplinary boundaries with other seniors to learn more about political science as a whole.

Brief Project Update:

- *What have you accomplished on your assessment project this year?*

Very little. Only one student chose to take Politics 483 this year, so it made more sense to work with that student as an independent study than as part of an imaginary larger group.

Evidence Gathered:

- *Please outline in detail the information gathered for your assessment project.*
- *This information may include student work, surveys, focus groups, existing enrollment information, etc. Include any information gathered that will inform your assessment work.*

We will have one student project available to review. This student has chosen an admirably integrative topic and has worked with me to deal with questions of research design as she proceeds. Better yet, she hopes to pursue a similar line of research in the graduate program to which she's been admitted, so she can view this as the first part of a larger intellectual project.

Year Three - Interpreting Evidence / Crafting a Plan:

The goal for Year Three of the College's assessment cycle is to analyze and interpret the evidence gathered for purposes of enhancing educational practice. What are your plans for the coming year? Please include plans for ongoing data collection as well as analysis, interpretation, and plans for using your assessment results.

Once again, no returning students have elected to take Politics 483 next year. The requirement doesn't affect students who declared the major before this year, and they will likely not take the class before the spring of 2014. In retrospect, we probably should have assessed something else. Perhaps we should even consider either switching our assessment target or our assessment cycle.

Involvement:

- *Who has been involved in this project?*
- *How well informed and involved are members of the department/office?*

Politics 483 is happening this block, and is not over. I will share my observations with the rest of the department after I've interviewed the student taking the class after she finishes the graded work of the class.

Challenges / Assistance:

- *What challenges has your department/office encountered to date with your assessment project?*
- *What assistance/support do you need? From whom?*

Choosing the wrong assessment project!

We need help from Dr. Emmett Brown to make it possible to assess this class during the current assessment cycle.

Feel free to add additional comments or supporting documents to this report. Upon completion, please submit the report to Becki Elkins, Box 2628.

David Yamanishi

1 May 2012

Your Signature

Date

David Yamanishi

1 May 2012

Department Chair Signature

Date

