

Form E-1-A for Boston College Core Curriculum

Department/Program: *Political Science (Kenji Hayao, DUG)*

- 1) **Have formal learning outcomes for the department's Core courses been developed? What are they?** (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect students completing its Core courses to have acquired?)

Our department's learning outcomes are derived from those specified by the A&S Undergraduate Core Development Committee (UCDC) as Core Social Science course learning goals, and they have been in force as guidelines for our assessments since 2012. Political Science Core courses include:

- c. awareness of the dynamics and dimensions of political change.
- d. ability to identify and appreciate the social scientific dimension of problems facing society today

- 2) **Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific.** (Where are the department's expected learning outcomes for its Core courses accessible: on the web, in the catalog, or in your department handouts?)

The learning outcomes had been published on the Political Science Department's Undergraduate Programs webpage (<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/undergrad/learningoutcomes.html>). However, a recent check showed that the page is gone. We suspect that the recent transfer of the department's website led to its inadvertent deletion. We will work to correct the problem.

3)

method has problems in terms of assessing whether students had achieved the stated outcomes for the Core. The quizzes were developed by the individual instructors of each of the courses to fit their specific course content, and were thus completely different from one another. The Undergraduate Committee is in the process of developing an alternative method for assessment to put in place for the coming academic year. We would greatly appreciate any guidance in creating a new method for assessing our core courses.

- 4) **Who interprets the evidence? What is the process?** (Who in the department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum or assignment changes if appropriate)

data/evidence? (What were the major assessment findings? Have there been any recent changes to your curriculum or program? How did the assessment data contribute to those changes?)

There have been no significant changes made as result of the previous assessments.

- 6) **Date of the most recent program review.** (Your latest comprehensive departmental self-study and external review.)

May 2012.