

MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT REPORT B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE 2006-2010

MISSION

The Strategic Mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of southeast Louisiana.

The major objectives of the B.A. in Political Science are to provide students with general humanistic knowledge in the fields of History, Political Science, and Philosophy; to aid them through this knowledge to analyze and interpret problems and achievements of past and present societies; to further their intellectual development through opportunities to think, to speak, and to write logically and analytically; to prepare them to become dynamic citizens who understand the structure, powers, and procedures of national and state governments and have some knowledge of other world governments as well; and to provide specific background training for such professions as law, journalism, government service, and teaching.

SCOPE

This report provides assessment information concerning all Goals and Expected Outcomes in the Major Field Assessment Plan for the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Program for the academic years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10.

In 2003 the Department of History and Political Science adopted a new, more detailed Major Field Assessment Plan for the B.A. in Political Science, replacing the previous plan, which took effect in 1996. The department adopted additional modifications in 2006.

NEW ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR 2011-12

Currently the department a still more comprehensive Major Field Assessment Plan that will be implemented in the 2011-12 academic year. The new plan will include—among other things—a portfolio evaluation and an exit exam, both of which will be administered in the capstone course for the B.A. in Political Science, Political Science 490. Faculty will evaluate student performance on both using a detailed rubric.

GOAL 1

Political Science majors will have a broad knowledge of American and World Politics.

A. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have knowledge of American Federal, state, and local Politics; Southern politics; Louisiana politics; the Constitution, law, and criminal justice; the presidency, legislative process, and political parties; research methods, polling, and public opinion; public administration and policy; and political theory.

Assessment

All students completing the B.A. in Political Science program have earned at least a C average in their major courses (36 hours), which include the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Federal, State, and Local Politics Survey
Political Science 201, 202

- b. 3 hours Research Methods and Statistics
Political Science 300
- c. 3-12 hours Constitution, Law, Presidency, Southern Politics
Political Science 401, 403, 407, 432, 434 and/or 480
- d. 0-6 hours Courts, Criminal Justice
Political Science 406, 407
- e. 3-12 hours Comparative Politics and International Relations
Political Science 420, 422, 424, 425, 426, 428, and/or 480
- f. 3-12 hours Legislative Process, Public Administration, Public Policy
Political Science 436, 460, 462, and/or 480
- g. 3-12 hours Political Parties, Louisiana, Polling, Foreign Policy, Environment
Political Science 437, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, and/or 480
- h. 3-12 hours Political Theory
Political Science 450, 451, 452, and/or 480
- i. 0-6 hours Internship
Political Science 470
- j. 0-3 hours International Political Simulations
Political Science 475
- k. 3 hours Capstone Course (Seminar for Political Science Majors)
Political Science 490

B. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have the basic knowledge of History and Philosophy necessary to understand the historical and intellectual foundations of Political Science.

Assessment

All students completing the B.A. in Political Science program have earned a passing grade in the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization Survey
History 101, 102
- b. 6 hours American History Survey
History 201, 202
- c. 3 hours Modern American History—Upper Level
History 479, 480, or 482
- d. 3 hours Introduction to Philosophy / Great Philosophers / Ethics
Philosophy 301, 302, or 313

Political Science majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in African-American Ethnic Studies (introduced 2005-06), History, International Studies, Philosophy, or Public History (introduced 2005-06).

Minors Earned

	<u>Afr-Am</u>	<u>Hist</u>	<u>Intl St</u>	<u>Philo</u>	<u>Pub Hist</u>	<u>Other</u>
2006-2007	0	10	2	2	0	3
2007-2008	0	10	3	0	0	1
2008-2009	0	11	0	0	0	0
2009-2010	0	12	0	0	0	0

C. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will express satisfaction with the quality of instruction and the overall learning environment provided by the Department of History and Political Science.

Assessment

Southeastern Louisiana University Exit Survey

1=very dissatisfied, 5=very satisfied

	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity of the degree requirements					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	5.3	47.4	47.4
2007-2008	6.7	00.0	20.0	40.0	33.3
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	15.0	35.0	50.0
2009-2010	00.0	4.8	9.5	33.3	52.4
Opportunities interact w/faculty outside class					
2006-2007	5.3	00.0	15.8	26.3	52.6
2007-2008	00.0	13.3	20.0	40.0	26.7
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	20.0	25.0	55.0
2009-2010	00.0	9.5	4.8	38.1	47.6
Effectiveness of faculty as teachers					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	5.3	63.2	31.6
2007-2008	00.0	13.3	6.7	40.0	40.0
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	10.0	50.0	40.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	4.8	57.1	38.1
Friendliness and helpfulness of office staff					
2006-2007	00.0	5.3	26.3	42.1	26.3
2007-2008	6.7	20.0	46.7	6.0	20.0
2008-2009	15.0	20.0	30.0	10.0	25.0
2009-2010	00.0	23.8	23.8	28.6	23.8
Faculty interest in academic development					
2006-2007	00.0	5.3	21.1	26.3	47.4
2007-2008	00.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	20.0
2008-2009	00.0	5.0	5.0	45.0	45.0
2009-2010	4.8	00.0	14.3	47.6	33.3
Effectiveness of beginning courses					
2006-2007	5.3	00.0	21.1	63.2	10.5
2007-2008	00.0	13.3	40.0	26.7	20.0
2008-2009	10.0	5.0	30.0	25.0	30.0
2009-2010	4.8	9.5	14.3	47.6	23.8
Quality of instruction in advanced courses					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	15.8	36.8	47.4
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	13.3	46.7	40.0
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	10.0	35.0	55.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	9.5	23.8	66.7
Faculty treatment of students inside/outside the classroom					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	10.5	31.6	57.9

2007-2008	00.0	00.0	6.7	46.7	46.7
2008-2009	00.0	5.0	15.0	30.0	50.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	14.3	14.3	71.4
Professional activities, associations, clubs					
2006-2007	10.5	5.3	36.8	26.3	21.1
2007-2008	6.7	40.0	20.0	20.0	13.3
2008-2009	5.0	5.0	35.0	35.0	20.0
2009-2010	00.0	19.0	42.9	9.5	28.6
Interaction w/faculty research/scholarship					
2006-2007	00.0	26.3	21.1	42.1	10.5
2007-2008	00.0	33.3	6.7	40.0	20.0
2008-2009	00.0	15.0	20.0	30.0	35.0
2009-2010	4.8	14.3	28.6	38.1	14.3
Availability of required courses					
2006-2007	5.3	00.0	47.4	21.1	26.3
2007-2008	26.7	20.0	13.3	20.0	20.0
2008-2009	5.0	15.0	15.0	25.0	40.0
2009-2010	4.8	9.5	28.6	23.8	33.3
Availability of elective courses					
2006-2007	5.3	5.3	36.8	21.1	31.6
2007-2008	00.0	6.7	26.7	40.0	26.7
2008-2009	00.0	15.0	20.0	20.0	45.0
2009-2010	00.0	9.5	14.3	38.1	38.1
Quality of instruction on standards/ethics					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	21.1	42.1	36.8
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	20.0	40.0	40.0
2008-2009	00.0	5.0	15.0	25.0	55.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	9.5	33.3	57.1
Opportunities to collaborate w/other students					
2006-2007	00.0	5.3	26.3	47.4	21.1
2007-2008	00.0	6.7	20.0	46.7	26.7
2008-2009	10.0	10.0	25.0	20.0	35.0
2009-2010	00.0	19.0	33.0	38.1	9.5
Library resources related to your major					
2006-2007	00.0	10.5	15.8	52.6	21.1
2007-2008	00.0	20.0	13.3	26.7	40.0
2008-2009	5.0	15.0	30.0	20.0	30.0
2009-2010	4.8	9.5	19.0	14.3	52.4
Use of appropriate technology in classroom					
2006-2007	00.0	5.3	10.5	57.9	26.3
2007-2008	00.0	6.7	26.7	33.3	33.3
2008-2009	00.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0
2009-2010	00.0	4.8	14.3	28.6	52.4
Facilities and equipment related to major					
2006-2007	00.0	5.3	31.6	21.1	42.1
2007-2008	00.0	6.7	26.7	46.7	20.0
2008-2009	00.0	5.0	25.0	40.0	30.0
2009-2010	4.8	4.8	19.0	28.6	42.9
Help from faculty re further education					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	26.3	26.3	47.4
2007-2008	6.7	00.0	33.3	40.0	20.0
2008-2009	5.0	15.0	10.0	35.0	35.0
2009-2010	00.0	14.3	23.8	19.0	42.9
Size of classes in major					
2006-2007	00.0	5.3	10.5	42.1	42.1
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	6.7	46.7	46.7

2008-2009	00.0	00.0	00.0	25.0	75.0
2009-2010	00.0	4.8	9.5	28.6	57.1
Help from faculty re employment					
2006-2007	10.5	10.5	21.1	26.3	31.6
2007-2008	20.0	33.0	26.7	6.7	13.3
2008-2009	20.0	5.0	35.0	15.0	25.0
2009-2010	23.8	33.3	19.0	14.3	9.5
Global perspectives of courses					
2006-2007	5.3	00.0	5.3	63.2	26.3
2007-2008	00.0	13.3	20.0	40.0	26.7
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	5.0	60.0	35.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	33.3	33.3	33.3
Relevancy of courses					
2006-2007	5.3	00.0	5.3	63.2	26.3
2007-2008	00.0	6.7	33.3	40.0	20.0
2008-2009	5.0	00.0	25.0	35.0	35.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	19.0	47.6	33.3
"Real-world" experiences, exposure, examples in/out of classroom					
2006-2007	5.3	10.5	47.4	21.1	15.8
2007-2008	00.0	13.3	33.3	46.7	6.7
2008-2009	5.0	5.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
2009-2010	9.5	4.8	38.1	14.3	33.3
Overall quality of department					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	21.1	47.4	31.6
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	13.3	53.3	33.3
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	10.0	40.0	50.0
2009-2010	00.0	4.8	14.3	47.6	33.3
Overall quality of degree program					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	21.1	57.9	21.1
2007-2008	00.0	6.7	13.3	46.7	33.3
2008-2009	5.0	00.0	15.0	50.0	30.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	14.3	47.6	38.8
Usefulness of academic advice from advisor					
2006-2007	5.3	15.8	10.5	42.1	26.3
2007-2008	6.7	33.3	33.3	13.3	13.3
2008-2009	15.0	15.0	15.0	30.0	25.0
2009-2010	19.0	9.5	23.8	33.3	14.3
Advisor's knowledge of requirements					
2006-2007	00.0	5.3	21.1	47.4	26.3
2007-2008	00.0	20.0	40.0	26.7	13.3
2008-2009	10.0	5.0	20.0	35.0	30.0
2009-2010	9.5	23.8	28.6	19.0	19.0
Accessibility of advisor					
2006-2007	10.5	5.3	26.3	21.1	36.8
2007-2008	6.7	6.7	26.7	26.7	33.3
2008-2009	15.0	00.0	20.0	25.0	40.0
2009-2010	9.5	28.6	23.8	14.3	23.8
Advisor's concern w/academic goals					
2006-2007	10.5	10.5	21.1	36.8	21.1
2007-2008	13.3	20.0	40.0	13.3	13.3
2008-2009	15.0	10.0	25.0	30.0	20.0
2009-2010	14.3	14.3	42.9	9.5	19.0
How many times did you meet with advisor 10 minutes or more in previous academic year?					
2006-2007	5.3	36.8	42.1	5.3	10.0
2007-2008	00.0	46.7	53.3	00.0	00.0

2008-2009	15.0	50.0	30.0	00.0	5.0
2009-2010	23.8	33.3	28.6	4.8	9.5

(1=did not meet; 2=once; 3=2 or 3 times; 4=4 or 5 times; 5=6 or more times)

1=did not participate, 5=very satisfied

Satisfaction with practicum, internships, or other hands-on experience outside of classroom					
2006-2007	68.4	00.0	10.5	10.5	10.5
2007-2008	00.0	46.7	53.3	00.0	00.0
2008-2009	15.0	50.0	30.0	00.0	5.0
2009-2010	23.8	33.3	28.6	4.8	9.5
Satisfaction with study abroad and/or student exchange experiences					
2006-2007	84.2	00.0	5.3	00.0	10.5
2007-2008	46.7	6.7	00.0	33.3	13.3
2008-2009	60.0	00.0	00.0	25.0	15.0
2009-2010	38.1	4.8	19.0	19.0	19.0
Satisfaction with honors program					
2006-2007	84.2	00.0	00.0	00.0	15.8
2007-2008	80.0	00.0	00.0	6.7	13.3
2008-2009	70.0	00.0	5.0	20.0	5.0
2009-2010	95.2	00.0	4.8	00.0	00.0
Satisfaction with undergraduate research programs					
2006-2007	100.0	00.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
2007-2008	93.3	00.0	6.7	00.0	00.0
2008-2009	95.0	00.0	00.0	5.0	00.0
2009-2010	95.2	00.0	00.0	4.8	00.0

GOAL 2

Political Science majors will have the necessary skills to engage in scholarly research and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.

A. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will be able to utilize the library resources (both print and electronic) necessary to conduct research in Political Science.

Assessment

At least 75% of Political Science majors will earn a B or better in Library Science 102.

Grades Earned in Library Science 102 by Graduating Political Science Majors

	A	B	C	D	F	P	% B or better
2006-2007	15	3	0	1	0	0	94%
2007-2008	10	2	3	0	0	0	80%
2008-2009	17	2	0	0	0	1	100%
2009-2010	19	1	0	1	0	0	95%

B. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have a basic knowledge of social science research methods and statistics, including the use of computers.

Assessment

At least 75% of Political Science majors will earn a C or better in Political Science 300.

Grades Earned in Political Science 300 by Graduating Political Science Majors

	A	B	C	D	F	N/A	% C or better
2006-2007	7	7	4	1	0	0	94%
2007-2008	0	5	8	2	0	0	86%
2008-2009	4	9	7	0	0	0	100%
2009-2010	9	6	4	2	0	0	90%

N/A=demonstrated computer literacy in another course before Political Science 300 was implemented.

C. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will be able to carefully read and critically analyze both primary and secondary sources and to discuss these intelligently both orally and in writing.

Assessment

All 100 and 200-level History and Political Science courses require the use of department-approved texts (which include examples of primary documents) and readers (which include diverse historiographical perspectives). All 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses require advanced texts and additional mandatory readings, on which students must be tested; essay exams; term papers, critical book reviews, and/or document analyses; and book discussions and/or presentations by students. Political Science 490, a required capstone course for all Political Science majors, is an Undergraduate Seminar in Political Science which is conducted like a graduate-level seminar and requires students to read extensively, write multiple critical papers, make multiple oral presentations, and participate in vigorous seminar discussions. Political Science majors will earn at least a C average in their major courses, and at least 75% of Political Science majors will earn a C or better in Political Science 490, the capstone course.

Grades Earned in Political Science 490 by Graduating Political Science Majors

	A	B	C	D	F	N/A*	% C or better
2006-2007	12	6	1	0	0	0	100%
2007-2008	3	11	1	0	0	0	100%
2008-2009	10	9	1	0	0	0	100%
2009-2010	11	8	2	0	0	0	100%

N/A=students in the old Government major were not required to take Political Science 490.

D. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will acquire thorough knowledge and skill in professional writing and documentation according to the guidelines in the American Political Science Association's *Style Manual for Political Science* and in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Assessment

All written work for 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses must meet the minimum standards of good professional writing and—where necessary—utilize proper documentation.

GOAL 3

Political Science majors will possess global awareness and a multicultural perspective

A. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will acquire knowledge of world history, cultures, economies, geography, governments, and peoples.

Assessment

All students completing the B.A. in Political Science program have earned a passing grade in the following courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization
- b. 12 hours English (including British and/or World Literature)
- c. 3 hours Philosophy
- d. 3-12 hours Comparative Politics and International Relations
- e. 0-3 hours International Political Simulations
- f. 6 hours Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Psychology, or Sociology

Political Science majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in International Relations (see above, Goal 1, B, "Minors Earned").

B. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will acquire knowledge of a foreign language.

Assessment

Political Science majors will complete 12 hours of a single foreign language.

Foreign Language Credit Earned

	French	German	Italian	Latin	Spanish
2006-2007	3	1	1	4	10
2007-2008	4	0	3	0	8
2008-2009	5	0	2	0	13
2009-2010	2	0	1	2	16

C. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have more opportunity to acquire knowledge of other countries through study abroad.

Assessment

Political Science majors will increase their participation in the Study Abroad Program because of increased encouragement from faculty and more thorough dissemination of information about benefits, scholarships, and other inducements. A provisional goal is that by the 2005-2006 academic year, at least 10% of Political Science majors will participate in Study Abroad or in the International Political Simulations class (Political Science 475). The continued viability of this goal will be subject to both economic and international conditions that may affect the feasibility of student travel abroad.

2006-2007	2
2007-2008	4
2008-2009	1
2009-2010	1

APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

In 2004 the External Review recommended creation of several standing committees, which resulted in the creation of a History Curriculum Committee, a Political Science Curriculum Committee, a Social Studies Education Curriculum Committee, and a Graduate Curriculum Committee, alongside a number of ad hoc committees created as necessary. The History Curriculum Committee is developing a new survey course on World History and a 300-level Methods course for implementation in 2007-08.

Veteran department faculty members have won a number of awards. Recipients of the Southeastern Louisiana University President's Award for Excellence in Research include Dr. Barbara Forrest, Dr. Bertram Groene (retired), Dr. Samuel Hyde, Dr. Lawrence Hewitt (retired), Dr. Michael Kurtz, and Dr. Andrew Traver. Recipients of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching include Dr. Barbara Forrest, Dr. Michael Kurtz, Mr. Howard Nichols (retired), and Dr. William Robison. Recipients of the President's Award for Excellence in Service include Professor Charles Dranguet.

Dr. Samuel Hyde currently holds the Leon Ford Chair in History in the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies. Mr. Howard Nichols (1995-98) and Dr. Barbara Forrest (2001-04) have held the Woman's Hospital Distinguished Teaching Professorship in the Humanities (1995-98). Dr. William Robison (1996-99) and Dr. Andrew Traver (2003-06) have held the Fay Warren Reimers Distinguished Teaching Professorship in the Humanities (1996-99). Dr. Jeffrey Bell (2002-06) and Dr. Harry Laver (2006-2009) have held the C. Howard Nichols Professorship in History and Government (2002-2006). Dr. Kurt Corbello (2002-06) and Dr. Peter Petrakis (2006-09) have held the Johnny R. Smith Professorship in History and Political Science (2002-2006).

The department continues to upgrade the research collection in the Sims Memorial Library. It also has had considerable input into the library's decision to acquire numerous on-line research tools, including America: History and Life, Historical Abstracts, and JSTOR, to name but a few.

In response to student demand for greater exposure to scholars from both on-campus and off-campus, the department has increased its role in Fanfare, the university's annual celebration (October) of the arts and humanities: after many years of informal participation, the department inaugurated the "Then and Now" Fanfare History and Politics Lecture Series in 2002. It also is the sole sponsor for the Constitution Day Lecture (September), Veterans Day Lecture (November), Black History Month Lecture Series (February), Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture (April), and the Deep Delta Civil War Symposium (June), is co-sponsor for the Southeast Louisiana Historical Association Lectures (May and December), and Women's History Month (March), and provides sponsorship for numerous individual lectures, and helps generate an audience for the Judge Leon Ford III Lecture in History and the Morrison Lecture on Politics and Government sponsored each year by the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies.

In 2002 the Board of Regents recognized the Department of History and Political Science as forming part of an Area of Excellence in Creative Arts and Cultural Studies along with the Department of English, the Department of Music and Dramatic Arts, and the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies.

In 2004 the U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$1 million Teaching American History Grant to Southeastern Louisiana University, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, and Louisiana Public Broadcasting Corporation in partnership with the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, the Louisiana State Archives, the Louisiana State Museum, the Louisiana State Libraries, and the Region II Education Service Center.

In 2007 the department received a second \$900,000 TAH grant.