Liberal Arts Essentials Assessment Plan

Course: POLS131: Intro to World Politics
Writing Unit: Sometimes
Instructor: Boomgaard
Methods: Examinations

LAE Category: Social Foundations

Goal 3: Muskingum students will acquire multiple and integrative approaches to life-long learning.

Learning Objective 1: Students will demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the lifelong learning skills of acquiring, evaluating, synthesizing, and applying knowledge.

A. Student work examined
   List the tasks used to measure the objective (e.g., exams, research project/paper assignments, presentation or class assignment) and attach a copy of each along with the Departmental plan.

Prior to the final exam in this course, students are given a packet of four current events items – newspaper articles, editorials, political party platforms, etc. – to analyze. The final exam asks students to draw conclusions about the political systems of the states described in these articles. Students have not learned about these states in the classroom; therefore, the exam will require an ability to apply the knowledge they have gained about political systems to the new information in the article, synthesize, and reach conclusions. (Students are told in the exam to explain which of the given options they have chosen, and why they believe the other options to be incorrect).

Along with the traditional grading of the exam, a random three questions from the final (students are required to answer four questions) will be selected, and evaluated according to the rubric below.

A. Scoring Criteria
   Briefly explain the criteria used to evaluate student performance in relation to the learning objective (i.e., what constitutes advanced, proficient, partially proficient, not proficient, etc.)
   Attach copies of measurement instrument or rubric.

Advanced students will be able to define each of the terms, explain how they relate to the article in question, and then accurately (or persuasively) explain which of the political systems the article describes.

Proficient students will be able to define each of the terms, explain how at least one or two of them relate to the article, and persuasively explain which of the political systems the article describes.
Partially proficient students will be able to define one or more terms, and relate one or more to the article in question.

Students who are not proficient cannot identify the terms or relate them to current events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition of terms</td>
<td>Student accurately defined all terms.</td>
<td>Student defined all of the terms. Portions of one or more definitions incomplete, but no significant material omitted.</td>
<td>Student defined all of the terms, but significant material was omitted, OR student failed to define one or more terms.</td>
<td>Student did not define over half of the terms in the question.</td>
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<td>Relationship to article</td>
<td>Student successfully explained which elements of the new material indicated that the concepts were or were not present, often using multiple examples.</td>
<td>Student successfully explained which elements of the new material indicated that the concepts were or were not present.</td>
<td>Student seemed to focus on one “correct” piece of evidence or one term, rather than trying to apply all.</td>
<td>Student misidentified relationships between concepts and new material.</td>
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<td>conclusion</td>
<td>Student correctly concluded, based on available evidence, which system was being described.</td>
<td>Student correctly concluded which system was being described, though logic may not be clear.</td>
<td>Student focused on one piece of evidence, rather than ruling out other options.</td>
<td>Student did not support conclusion with any evidence.</td>
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Answers scoring a combined 8-9 points according to this rubric will be judged “advanced.”

Answers scoring 5-7 points will be “proficient.”

Answers scoring 4-6 points will be “partially proficient.”

Answers scoring 0-3 points will not be considered proficient.