

Random Sampling of an Embedded Assignment Used To Evaluate SLOs in a History Course

History BA - College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Step 1: Student Learning Outcome

Upon completion of HIST 110A: World History-Ancient to 1500, students will acquire a holistic understanding of the origins and historical development of world civilizations to 1500, including contributions of religion, language, philosophy, material and nonmaterial culture, and their interaction with the environment.

Step 2: Methods and Measures

A rubric covering global awareness, holistic understanding of world civilizations, and historical knowledge was applied to an embedded, uniform assignment that was assigned to every student in each section either as an extra-credit assignment, take-home assignment, in-class assignment, or part of the final. 325 random samples of the assignment were scored in pairs using a rubric with dimensions for Historical Knowledge and Global Awareness. Students were scored using a four point scale.

Step 3: Criteria for Success

Students will meet the criteria for satisfying the SLO, when 75% of students score a 2 or higher on all categories covered by the scoring rubric.

Step 4: Results

The criteria for success was achieved with 75% or more of students scoring a 2 or higher on all categories covered by the scoring rubric. Scores were as follows;

- Historical Knowledge: 80.6% scored a 2 or higher
- Global Awareness: 75.1% scored a 2 or higher

It is worth noting that criteria were only met by a narrow margin in the Global Awareness category.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

It was decided that the assessment instrument should be revised to use existing instead of embedded assignments. In addition, clearer rubrics were created and workshops/discussions were held about global connections in a pre-1500 world. Finally, it was suggested that a tutoring center be created to enhance student learning.