

# **Texas A&M International University**

## **Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)**

**Date Submitted** June 14, 2007

**Assessment Period Covered (2006)**

**Academic Program/AES Unit** Master of Arts in Sociology

**Person(s) Preparing Review** John Kilburn

### **Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented**

We are monitoring the level of preparation of students taking the comprehensive exam. Public events will continue. This face to face outreach is becoming more important as more of our student's coursework is taking place online.

## **Section I: Planning and Implementation**

### **Institutional Mission**

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

### **Academic Program or Administrative/Educational Support Unit Mission**

The Master of Arts in Sociology is designed to support the mission of the university by 1) developing students' ability to communicate through the use of the written and spoken word 2) develop their appreciation of culture and social integration and 3) develop their sense of self-realization. This program addresses this mission through providing students the opportunity to obtain advanced knowledge in the core ideas of the field of Sociology. This carefully designed curriculum addresses the students' ability to secure employment.

### **Identify outcomes and the relationship to Strategic Plan**

#### **Outcome 1**

☐ **Is this outcome related to writing (QEP)?**

Students will identify underlying assumptions in theoretical orientations or arguments.

#### **Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 1**

Goal 1 Academics

#### **Identify Strategic Plan Objective related to Outcome 1**

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

**Identify methods of assessment to be used**

Program faculty assessment of student written work Seminar in Sociological Theory.

**Indicate when assessment will take place**

Fall

**Criteria/Benchmark**

All students will demonstrate competence in understanding the assumptions related to sociological theories. Students will demonstrate both positive and negative critiques of the central idea of classical sociological theorists.

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**Outcome 2**

☐ **Is this outcome related to writing (QEP)?**

Students will describe the diversity of the United States and identify, analyze, and suggest solutions to social problems.

**Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 2**

Goal 1 Academics

**Identify Strategic Plan Objective related to Outcome 2**

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

**Identify methods of assessment to be used**

Program faculty will review student's written assignments in the Race, Class and Gender course.

**Indicate when assessment will take place**

Fall

**Criteria/Benchmark**

Student papers will demonstrate competency in understanding the variations of race, class, gender and age as well as significant social problems facing some of these groups.

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**Outcome 3**

☐ **Is this outcome related to writing (QEP)?**

Students will acquire skills to collect data and formulate research questions and testable hypotheses.

**Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 3**

Goal 1 Academics

**Identify Strategic Plan Objective related to Outcome 3**

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

**Identify methods of assessment to be used**

Program faculty will review Advance Methods in Social Research assignments that build on data collection and hypotheses development.

**Indicate when assessment will take place**

Spring

**Criteria/Benchmark**

All students will demonstrate competence in using literature to develop research questions and testable hypotheses through earning a B or better on their research methods assignments.

## Section II: Analysis of Results

### **When (term/date) was assessment conducted?**

#### **Outcome 1**

December 2006 and January 2007

#### **Outcome 2**

December 2006 and January 2007

#### **Outcome 3**

January 2007

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### **What were the results attained (raw data)?**

#### **Outcome 1**

Four students completed the graduate Sociological Theory course. All four demonstrated a critical understanding of the underlying assumptions, concepts, and principles of classical and contemporary social thinkers. They were required to write a one page (single-spaced) paper each week to demonstrate these competencies and connect them to the realities of contemporary society. They were also asked (at mid-term and at the end of the course) to write a 5 page single spaced critique of a classical theorist that we did not cover as well as a contemporary theorist that we also did not cover. They were also required to complete an oral presentation in connection with these two main papers.

#### **Outcome 2**

A total of 10 papers were reviewed. All ten addressed the assignment of using social theory to understand social problems and formulate solutions to address these problems.

#### **Outcome 3**

All students were exposed to hypothesis development through sound scientific and ethical methodological approaches.

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### **Who (specify names) conducted analysis of data?**

#### **Outcome 1**

Marcus Ynalvez in consultation with John Kilburn

#### **Outcome 2**

Judith Warner in consultation with John Kilburn

#### **Outcome 3**

Marcus Ynalvez in consultation with John Kilburn

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**When were the results and analysis shared and with whom (department chair, supervisor, staff, external stakeholders)? Submit minutes with data analysis to [assessment@tamiu.edu](mailto:assessment@tamiu.edu) (Please use Minutes Template located on the [Project INTEGRATE](#) web page.)**

Minutes shared January 29, 2007.

**NOTE: Submit all assessment documentation (i.e., surveys, rubrics, course exams with embedded questions, etc.) to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning.**

**Use of Results: Indicate whether criteria were met/not met and what changes, if any, have been identified based on the data collected?**

**Outcome 1**

☒ Met   ☐ Not Met

**Provide narrative:** Enter text here

**Outcome 2**

☒ Met   ☐ Not Met

**Provide narrative:** Enter text here

**Outcome 3**

☒ Met   ☐ Not Met

**Provide narrative:** Enter text here

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**How have these data-based changes improved your program/unit?**

We plan to continue to address both Sociological Theory and Race, Class and Gender in the same manner. The primary changes in the program are related to our discussions about adding more advanced Research Methods courses in order to provide more opportunities to gather data and manage it.

### Section III: Programmatic Review

**Are resources affected by the changes identified in Section II?**   ☐ Yes   ☒ No

**If so, specify the effect(s) using the chart below:**

Funding	Physical	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> New resources required	<input type="checkbox"/> New or reallocated space	<input type="checkbox"/> Primarily faculty/staff time
<input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation of current funds		<input type="checkbox"/> University rule/procedure change only
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Enter text here

**Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)**

Enter text here

#### **Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:**

Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation):  
Maintain current goals for continuity. However, these goals will be modified if we add an additional graduate research methods course.

New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):  
Enter text here

Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification):  
Enter text here

**\*\*\*\* This section to be completed by dean/director/vice-president \*\*\*\***

**Are resources requested a priority for the academic program/AES unit?**

☐ Yes   ☐ No

**Comments:**

Enter text here

**If funding, physical or other resources were requested, what is the impact of the budget decisions on the academic program/AES unit?**

Enter text here