

INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT

In 2022-23, CLAS undertook the assessment of the International and Global Issues area of the CLAS Core. In Fall 2022, instructors from 29 IGI courses completed assessment reports to contribute to this process, covering courses from 15 disciplines and 11 departments. The results of this process were analyzed in 2023-24, leading to a report of findings and recommendations. The details of the assessment process and the key findings and recommendations of the report are summarized here.

The Assessment Process

The course assessment reports submitted by faculty included:

- Analysis of how courses helped students achieve the IGI learning outcomes
- Discussion of how the course meets the General Education course attributes (pedagogical best practices)
- Analysis of student struggles in the course and potential course improvements that could enhance student learning



The reports and other data were then analyzed, leading to recommendations and action items

- General Education Curriculum Committee reviewed all assessment reports in Spring 2023
- The CLAS Academic Assessment Coordinator produced a draft report in Spring 2024 based on the assessment reports and supplemented by ACE evaluations
- GECC and UEPCC reviewed the draft report and adopted recommendations and action items in Spring 2024

EVIDENCE USED BY INSTRUCTORS IN ASSESSMENT REPORTS

- Quantitative data on student learning from ACE evaluations
- Student comments from ACE evaluations
- Assignment instructions and rubrics
- Examples of student work
- Surveys designed by the instructor

Findings and Recommendations

The assessment process identified several strengths of the courses in the International and Global Issues area of the CLAS Core and also led to revisions to the learning outcomes for the area (approved by the GECC and the UEPC) and recommendations on how to improve the assessment process:

Area Strengths

- The content in IGI courses fulfills the goals of the IGI area and is of great benefit in fostering student learning. Keep it up!
- Students in IGI courses successfully learn to apply methods of analysis and critical inquiry to international and global issues.
- Student ACE evaluations provide data supporting the conclusion that students are achieving the IGI learning outcomes.

Solid majorities (ranging from 73 to 80 percent) of students in IGI courses completing ACE evaluations in Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 agreed or strongly agreed that in the courses they had gained knowledge of a contemporary global or international issue, have a deeper understanding of the importance of seeing an issue from multiple perspectives, and have learned to apply at least one method of analysis for understanding global issues, corresponding to learning outcomes #1, 2, and 4.

Revisions to Area Outcomes

Original Learning Outcome	Revised Learning Outcome
1. Students develop knowledge of one or more contemporary global or international issues.	1. Students develop knowledge of one or more global or international issues.
2. Students demonstrate a greater awareness of various perspectives and a deeper appreciation of how differences arise.	2. Students demonstrate an understanding of different international and regional perspectives on complex global issues and the reasons for these differences.
3. Students are better able to adapt to the complexity and diversity of contemporary life through their understanding of international and global contexts.	Outcome eliminated.
4. Students know and are able to apply at least one method of analysis and critical inquiry.	3. Students know and are able to apply at least one method of analysis and critical inquiry.

Recommended Improvements to the Assessment Process (for GECC)

- Revise instructions for the course assessment reports to encourage instructors to draw out connections between course content and student discussions, activities, and assignments
- Revise the instructions for the course assessment reports to encourage instructors to reflect more on how the course fulfills the General Education course attribute
- Provide more guidance to instructors on potential sources of evidence and how to use evidence most effectively