Liberal Arts Essentials Course Assessment Report

Course: PHIL 203: Introduction to Philosophy

Writing Unit: NO.

Instructor: Todd Lekan

Methods: Examination

LAE Category: Moral Inquiry

Goal: Muskingum students will demonstrate knowledge of physical wellness and of ethical and spiritual concepts.

Learning Objective: Objective 2: Students will demonstrate an ability to assess ethical and moral issues in society critically.

Departmental Perspective (if applicable):

A. Student Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objective or Departmental Perspective</th>
<th>Number and percentage of students exceeding expectations</th>
<th>Number and percentage of students meeting expectations</th>
<th>Number and percentage of students failing to meet expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Stream of Evidence</td>
<td>15 (65%)</td>
<td>7 (31%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Stream of Evidence</td>
<td>19 (86%)</td>
<td>2 (9%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. Student work examined

Summarize the tasks used to measure the objective (e.g., exams, research project/paper assignments, presentation, or class assignment) and attach a copy of each (from Departmental assessment instrument or other source).

First Evidence Stream:

- All the tests in the course are essay or short answers. The final exam (or last midterm) of the semester will include the following question:
- Pick one of the controversial moral issues that we have considered this semester. Examples might include: abortion, euthanasia, death penalty, cloning.
- Take a stand on the morality of the issue: pro or con.
- Support your position by utilizing arguments and ideas from the course readings and discussions.
- Student considers one objection to his or her own argument.
• Student offers a reply to the objection.

Second Evidence Stream:

At the end of the semester students will evaluate the course's effectiveness in achieving the goal by being given a prompt that asks them to explicitly reflect on the relationship between the major assignments of the course and the LAE GOAL. On the last day of the fall 08 course, students wrote a response to the following:

This course is contained in the Moral Inquiry category of Muskingum's Liberal Arts Essentials. Whether or not you have taken it for that reason, you are invited to comment on the relationship between the following assignments and the Liberal Arts Essentials course goal. You will be awarded points for a thorough effort on this survey. This information will be used to help me determine how well the assignments are meeting the liberal arts essentials goal.

LAE COURSE GOAL: Students will demonstrate an ability to assess ethical and moral issues in society critically.

In about a paragraph please comment on how well you believed the debates about cloning and euthanasia helped you achieve this liberal arts essentials goal.

C. Scoring Criteria

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 (Departmental assessment instrument or other source).

• Advanced: Student demonstrates knowledge of course ideas and arguments pertaining to an issue. The student formulates an argument defending a position on the issue. The student formulates a thought-out objection to his/her own argument. The student offers an adequate reply to that objection.

• Proficient: The student demonstrates knowledge the course ideas and arguments, with some omission in the areas of content, argument, objection, or reply.

• Not Proficient: The student does not demonstrate adequate knowledge of ideas from course discussion and reading and/or student omits adequate argument, objection and reply.