

End-of-Program Review 2006-07

Compelling Intellectual Experiences and Successful Pedagogical Practices

Core Programs

Program Name	Faculty	For purposes of helping faculty reflect on the range of teaching practices and experiences at the college, please identify the most compelling intellectual experience(s) in your program or the most successful or innovative pedagogical practice in your program.
American Experiences, American Dreams	Nancy Koppelman, Sam Schrager, Nelson Pizarro	The ethnography projects and the personal business (5-year life) plans were compelling. The weekly writing workshops helped many students develop their writing skills in obvious and important ways.
Culture and the Public Sphere: Studies in Literature and Law	Jose Gomez, Greg Mullins	Three practices stand out: 1) peer review of student writing, which contributed to dramatic improvement in student writing, 2) research projects which culminated in creative student presentations, and 3) appellate advocacy (writing legal briefs and presenting oral arguments) as an exercise in critical thinking, which culminated in student presentations before a mock court, The Evergreen Supreme Court.
Environmental Conflicts	Lin Nelson	1. Developing a regional case-study, with international implications and doing site fieldtrip (Ruston-Tacoma-Asarco Superfund site). 2. Walking tour of downtown Olympia. 3. Population politics scenario (students study and take notes of population positions). 4. Many student projects and quality presentations.
Extraordinary Science of Everyday Experience	Heather Heying, Bret Weinstein	Two discussions every week--one classic "seminar" and one small-group then whole-class discussion of specific "study questions" at the beginning of every week. In addition, two weekly 2.5 hour "lectures" were always highly interactive.
Gender and Media	Sally Cloninger, Heesoon Jun	The combination of theory with practice in the study of gender identity, including two film projects, a global media monitoring project, and Mediawatch (quantitative, qualitative and expressive study of contemporary popular culture).
Sign, Symbol, Symptom: The Politics of Meaning	Rachel Hastings, Nancy Allen, Kathleen Eamon	The production of a 30-minute radio show modeled on This American Life, in groups of five students, seemed particularly satisfying to the students.
Understanding Species	Jack Longino, Heather Heying	Involvement of students in real field ecology research. Extensive time in the field taking data. Follow up with analysis of results over several weeks, incorporation of field data into assignments and exams.

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Visualizing Ecology	Lucia Harrison, Kevin Francis, Steve Scheuerell	Incorporating agriculture into the study of ecology, adding history/philosophy of science into ecology, adding visual art into ecology, providing multiple ways of learning: lecture, hands-on lab, field work, and art workshops.