Examples of Learning Outcomes in Course Syllabi

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Course-level Assessment Workshop

Fall 2012

Workshop Learning Outcomes: (as they might appear in a course syllabus!)

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Design course learning outcome statements for their syllabi
2. Develop ways to show the integration of course learning outcomes with general education or program learning outcomes
3. Devise rubrics that serve both grading and assessment purposes

Professor Paul Apodaca came up with a very nice, simple way to integrate the GE learning outcomes of his course with the final research paper. He includes the following in his syllabus for ANTH-102 Cultural Anthropology, immediately after a description of the research paper assignment:

**General Education Learning Outcomes:**

In addition to the outcomes specified above, this course also satisfies one of the following General Education areas. 

Try to demonstrate the following in your Research Paper:

7SI (Social Inquiry) Identifies, frames and analyzes the processes by which human beings develop social and/or historical perspectives

7GC (Global Study) Connects contemporary social and/or environmental topics to their origins and analyzes their effects on our increasingly globalized world

And Professor Fred Caporaso found an innovative way to connect his course learning outcomes in the context of the General Education learning outcomes which his HON 207 Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory: The Science and the Controversy course supports:

**GE 7NI Learning Outcome (Natural Science Inquiry):**

*Students will be able to use scientific principles and reasoning as a way of knowing the natural world, distinguishing science from non-science.*

**Course Learning Objectives:**

- Apply the scientific method to analyze the natural world.
- Explain the difference between a scientific theory and “theories” in everyday life.
- Evaluate the science supporting Darwin’s theory of evolution by natural selection, and its crucial role in many scientific disciplines.
- Analyze and articulate the controversy surrounding the theory of evolution.

**GE 7VI Learning Outcome (Values Inquiry):**

*Articulates how values and ethics inform human understanding, structures, and behavior*

**Course Learning Objectives:**

- Explore and assess the values and ethical norms of the Victorian age, and how they influenced Charles Darwin’s thoughts and actions.
- Analyze why so many Americans don’t “believe” in evolution.
- Evaluate the options for finding comfort with both the science of evolution and one’s personal religious beliefs.
And finally, here is an example from my own syllabus for FTV 227 Screenwriting Fundamentals.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Generate compelling scenes, characters and stories, distinguishing between derivative, boring, obvious choices and honest, original ones that affect and move an audience.
- Write in the professional screenplay style and format.
- Be creative within parameters.
- Think like a screenwriter, applying the language of constructive screenplay development and criticism to your own work as well as to the work of others.

In addition to the learning outcomes mentioned above, FTV 227 also supports the program learning outcomes for the following degrees:

**BA Screenwriting:**

- Students will demonstrate competency with industry standard writing style and presentation.
- Students will demonstrate ability to conceive and write fully dimensional characters.
- Students will be able to write in a distinctive personal voice.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of business, theoretical and historical issues relating to screenwriting.

**BFA Film Production**

- Students will exhibit in their work an understanding of the fundamental components of visual storytelling, story structure, and story analysis.

**BFA Creative Producing**

- Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to identify, develop and market creative material appropriate for film, television and the internet.
- Through critical essays and writing assignments, students will demonstrate an understanding of the development of film language, including aesthetic perspectives.

**BFA Digital Arts**

- Students will demonstrate advanced technical and storytelling skills in the creation of a senior project.

**BFA Screen Acting**

- Demonstrate an understanding of the process for preparing and executing an acting role in a variety of situations and styles.