Academic Learning Compacts: 2012 – 2013

"… to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs …"

USFSP
ST. PETERSBURG

Academic Learning Compacts
INTERDISCIPLIINARY SOCIAL SCIENCES

2012 – 2013
Due: May, 2013

Academic Program-linked College Mission-based Goals/Objectives

In the matrix on the following page, please place an X in the grid that identifies the degree program goals and objectives that align with the institutional mission-based goals/objectives and the College based goals/objectives. These goals/objectives need to be documented in your ALC data.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG GOALS & OBJECTIVES		COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES GOALS & OBJECTIVES	UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS										
			Anthropology	Biology	Criminology	Literature & Writing	Environmental Science (BA)	Graphic Design	Political Science	Psychology	History	I.S.S.	journalism (BA)
Academic Performance	Use sustained evidence of SLO's and student achievement for continuous improvement	Initiate and expand graduate programs and develop formal academic ties to other graduate programs within the USF system										**X**	
	Offer certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs that meet regional needs											**X**	
	Implement and support information and instructional technologies that facilitate effective pedagogies											**X**	
	Enhance programs that specifically support academic excellence											**X**	
	Increase student awareness of participating in a global society											**X**	
Student Engagement	Create a freshman experience that enables students to thrive and move successfully through to graduation	Our students will have critical skills and a broad outlook that will make them engaged and productive citizens											
	Foster institutional pride and strengthen connections within the campus community	Incorporate civic engagement, service learning, and experiential learning into their classes, when appropriate										**X**	
	Enhance opportunities for increased student involvement in curricular and co-curricular activities											**X**	
Diversity & Inclusion	Insure an inclusive community where differences are respected and valued	Cultivate a vigorous liberal arts culture by recruiting talented diverse students, maintaining small class sizes, and mentoring those students we have. Encourage free discussion, foster critical thinking, demand that our students write, and work across disciplines										**X**	
	Attract and retain a diverse student population											**X**	
	Increase the diversity of faculty and staff												
Research & Creative Activities	Create a vibrant culture of faculty research and creative scholarship	Make significant and meaningful contributions to ongoing dialogues in our academic fields. We expect our undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research in collaboration with faculty										**X**	
	Promote and support undergraduate research as a meaningful aspect of campus life											**X**	
	Enhance and support research and scholarly collaborations with community partners											**X**	

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Signature Page for Academic Program

Academic Program: INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCES
Chair/Coordinator: _____Rebecca Johns Krishnaswami_____   Date: ___5/6/13_____

Summary Statement – Academic Program Performance in 2012-13
Provide a summary statement about academic program performance over the previous year including high points and low points.

ISS students continue to largely meet our goals for performance on the student learning outcomes. We continue to make changes to our program in order to increase the academic excellence of our students. This past year, we submitted substantial changes to the ISS program to meet our goals of having greater control over our students' courses and learning. For example, we have made changes to the methods requirement by expanding it to include a variety of discipline specific and qualitative methods courses in addition to the traditional statistics course. We have created our own qualitative methods course, designed and taught by Dr. Johns Krishnaswami, and continue to recruit ISS majors into this course. This allows us to track student performance in research methods. We have also updated the courses available to our students in the different concentration areas, in concert with the program coordinators or chairs of the associated disciplines. We eliminated outdated concentration areas, such as Sociology, in which we cannot provide adequate coursework for our students. We hope to be able to reinstitute a Sociology concentration once we hire a sociologist for our campus. This should be an integral part of any ISS degree program, and it is disappointing to us and to our students that we cannot offer the Sociology concentration at this time. We also culled courses that were not clearly social science courses (such as literature courses) in order to make each concentration area a more coherent and logical sequence of courses. This coming year, we will be making additional changes to our concentration areas to eliminate unnecessary overlap between discrete areas.

An additional change has to do with ISS 3013. Drs. Krishnaswami and Gaskin-Butler have been collaborating on this key gateway course. In an effort to have greater control over our students' preparedness for graduation, and for the rigors of the senior seminar, Dr. Krishnaswami instituted a

research paper in ISS 3013. This assignment uses similar steps to the longer and more complex senior paper, such as an annotated bibliography and multiple drafts, and a formal oral presentation. It is important that our students being the process of learning to write formal, analytic papers in the discourse of their chosen concentration disciplines, BEFORE they arrive in the senior seminar. Dr. Krishnaswami will be teaching the ISS 3013 course every semester starting in Spring 2014 as Dr. Gaskin-Butler takes on additional courses in Psychology.

It is our goal to continue to increase students' written and oral communication skills, as well as their ability to think analytically, and to engage with the scientific discourse community. We will continue to expand our efforts to involve students in the local community, both through the Social Work internship and community based projects in Qualitative Methods.

In 2013-2014, we will be expanding our civic engagement component through the addition of community-based research projects in ISS 3930 Qualitative Methods and ISS 3013 Introduction to Social Science.

Summary Statement – Impact of Changes Made in 2012-13
Provide a summary statement about changes that were made in your program as a result of ongoing assessment in 2012-2013 and the positive/negative impact of the changes that were made.

Introduction of a major writing assignment in ISS 3013 has had positive impacts. Students were able to familiarize themselves with the research process, the library and its electronic data bases and journals, and to begin working on scholarly writing. The changes to this class also allowed Dr. Krishnaswami to identify ISS majors who may need additional assistance in order to be prepared for the senior paper by the time they enroll in ISS 4935.

This spring, Dr. Krishnaswami completed a graduate level course in the teaching of writing. This course was extremely useful to her in revising and implementing changes to writing assignments in ISS 3013. Dr. Krishnaswami intends to apply her new understanding of the latest research in composition pedagogy to the senior seminar in Spring 2014. She is currently revising her syllabus for that course to incorporate the latest findings in composition research.

Students have responded positively to the more flexible research methods requirement in ISS. This has been especially beneficial for some of our students who have math learning disabilities.

Over the past year, Dr. Krishnaswami updated the ISS website and bulletin boards. She also acquired the use of the glass case in the middle of the second floor southern hall in Davis for ISS. Updated information about the major, courses, and students and faculty achievements are now on display. ISS faculty and students have regularly attended on campus open house events to increase recruitment of students to the ISS program.

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In ISS 4935, Senior Seminar, Dr. Schmidt made the following changes:

Based on previous student performance, some higher expectations were introduced to the capstone seminar assignments:

1) The annotated bibliography minimum requirements were increased from five sources to seven
2) Draft #1 from 4 pages to 6 pp
3) Draft #2 from 8 pages to 10 pp
4) Sources for the final paper: from 10 to 12 minimum
5) Weight of final paper was increased: from 350 to 400 points

The majority of students responded well (four A+; three A; three A-; one B; three B-; two C+; one C-

Academic Program: INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCES

Person Responsible: Rebecca Johns, Program Coordinator

1. Content/Discipline Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2013-14
1a.Identify an important social issue.	This year, we will use several methods of assessing this SLO. ISS 3013 will provide one means of assessing the ability of students to identify an important social issue through the use of three structured debates.	Fall 2012: students will participate in 3 debates on important and controversial social issues. 70% of students will achieve a score of 70% or higher on 2 of the 3 debates.	86% of students met the target (12 out of 15)	This assessment will be used in Fall 2013 and will be discontinued after that semester.
	Students in ISS 3013 Spring 2013 complete a written assessment of the social issues highlighted by a current event. .	Spring 2013: Student identified a current social issue in the news and analyzed this issue applying social science concepts. 80% of students will receive an 80% or higher on this assignment.	N = 19. 16 students received 80% or higher, or 84%.	Dr. Krishnaswami will continue to use this assessment in her class.
	ISS 4935 will provide a second assessment. Students in ISS 4935 must develop a thesis statement or research	70% of students will score 80% or higher on this assignment.	18 out of 19 students (95%) scored 80% or higher on this assignment	We will continue to use these assessments.

	question and justification pertaining to a critical social issue.			
Students will analyze the macro and micro level causes at the root of an important social problem as well as the social economic and cultural structures that help perpetuate the problem	ISS 4935 is the ISS capstone seminar; it require a major paper offering students an opportunity to identity a social problem analyze it, and demonstrate an understanding of how different social sciences approach the issue. A 13-15 page paper that includes at least 8 bibliographical sources on the chosen topic is required.	Students will write a 13-15 page research paper that should include at least 8 bibliographical sources on the topic of their choosing (see attached rubric) 70% of students will earn a score of 70% (C) or better)	18 out of 20 students (90%) scored 70% or higher on this assignment. One F was given (student stopped coming) One I was given due to job related issues	We will continue to use these assessments.
	ISS 3013 tests students on their understanding of important social problems through 2 exams.	70% of students will score 70% or higher on two exams.	In Spring 2013, Dr. Krishnaswami's students scored as follows: Midterm; 16 out of 19 or 84% received a 70% or higher; Final Exam; 14 out of 19 or 74% received a 70% or higher.	We will continue to use midterm and final exams to assess this SLO.

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

2. Communication Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2013-14
2a. Write clearly and effectively, producing well organized, logical, well-supported written arguments that reflect appropriate use of language and meet assignment objectives.	ISS 4935 is the ISS capstone seminar; it require a major paper offering students an opportunity to identity a social problem analyze it, and demonstrate an understanding of how different social sciences approach the issue. A 13-15 page paper that includes at least 8 bibliographical sources on the chosen topic is required.	70% of students earn a score of 70% or better on the final draft of the paper.	18 out of 20 students (90%) scored 70% or higher on this assignment. One F was given (student stopped coming) One I was given due to job related issues	We will continue to use both of these papers as assessments.
	In ISS 3013 Spring 2013 students complete an 8 to 10 page paper on a contemporary social issue to begin to prepare students for the more rigorous senior seminar paper.	80% of students will receive 80% or higher on the final draft of the paper.	In Spring 2013, 15 out of 18 students (83%) in Dr. Krishnaswami's class received a score of 70% or higher on the paper.	

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2b.Exhibit functional oral communication with minimal apprehension, and exhibit a willingness and readiness to communicate and share research results with others	ISS 3013 Fall 2012 required students to participate in 3 debates on important and controversial social issues. ISS 3013 Spring 2013 required students to present their papers orally to their peers.	70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on two of the debates, and a score of 80% or higher on at least one of the debates. 70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on the presentation.	86% of students (12 out of 15) met the target. 15 out of 19 students in Dr. Krishnaswami's class (79%) scored 70% or higher.	We will continue to use these presentations and debates to assess our students' oral communication skills.
	Students in ISS 4935 are required to present their research in a formal, oral presentation.	70% of students in ISS 4935 will score 80% or higher on the oral presentation.	18 out of 18 students (100%) scored 70% or higher	We will continue to use these assessments.

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

3. Critical Thinking Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2013-14
3a.Demonstrate an understanding of how knowledge (in Social Science) is generated	ISS 4935 requires students to prepare an annotated bibliography. ISS 3013 Spring 2013 requires students to create an annotated bibliography in ISS 3013. ISS majors must take a research methods course. While we cannot track progress in the multiple courses that are available to our students, we can track achievement in our own research methods course, ISS 3930.	70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on the annotated bibliography. 70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on the annotated bibliography 70% of students in ISS 3930 will achieve a score of 70% or higher on 4 out of 7 projects.	18 out of 19 students scored 70% or higher 16 out of 19 students in ISS 3013 Spring 2013 received 70% or higher on their bibliographies. This is 84% and is above target. In Fall 2012, 7 out of 8 students enrolled in the Qualitative Methods course met the target (88%).	We will continue to use these assessments.
3b.Demonstrate sound critical thinking by applying the university intellectual standards	ISS 4935 requires a major paper in which the intellectual standards are displayed. ISS 3013 Spring 2013 requires an 8 to 10 page research paper.	70% of students will score a 70% or better on the final paper 70% of students will score a 70% or better on the final paper	18 out of 20 students (90%) scored 70% or higher on this assignment. 15 out of 18 students in ISS 3013 Spring 2013 received a score of 70% or higher on the paper. This is 83% and is above	We will continue to use these assessments. We will continue to use these assessments

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			target.	

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

4. Civic Engagement:				
Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2013-14
a. Students will demonstrate an ability to apply basic social science research methods in the preparation of reports based on the analysis of social issues that impact the local/regional community	ISS 4940 requires students to write a term paper analyzing the internship experience in the context of relevant theory and literature.	70% of students will complete the final report for the internship with a passing grade (course and assignments are pass/fail).	In Spring 2013, 5 out of 7 students in the internship met the objectives (71%).	We will continue to use this assessment.
	Students not enrolling in the internship will fulfill this objective through the writing of the term paper in ISS 4935.	70% of students will score a 70% or better on the final paper	18 out of 20 students (90%) scored 70% or higher on this assignment. One F was given (student stopped coming) One I was given due to job related issues	We will continue to use this assessment.
	Other assessments may be developed in the coming year.			

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

ALC GOALS ESTABLISHED FOR DATA COLLECTION: 2013 – 2014

Academic Program: INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCE

Person Responsible:

1. Content/Discipline Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2014-15
1a.Identify an important social issue.	We will use several methods of assessing this SLO. ISS 3013 will provide one means of assessing the ability of students to identify an important social issue through the use of three structured debates.	Fall 2013: students will participate in 3 debates on important and controversial social issues. 70% of students will achieve a score of 70% or higher on 2 of the 3 debates.		
	In ISS 3013 students complete a short written analysis of a current event within the theoretical perspectives of social science.	Spring 2014: Students will identify a current social issue in the news and analyzed this issue applying social science concepts. 80% of students will receive an 80% or higher on this assignment.		
	ISS 4935 will provide a second assessment. Students in ISS 4935 must develop a thesis statement or research question and justification pertaining	70% of students will score 80% or higher on this assignment.		

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	to a critical social issue.			
1.b. Students will analyze the macro and micro level causes at the root of an important social problem as well as the social economic and cultural structures that help perpetuate the problem	ISS 4935 is the ISS capstone seminar; it require a major paper offering students an opportunity to identity a social problem analyze it, and demonstrate an understanding of how different social sciences approach the issue. A 13-15 page paper that includes at least 8 bibliographical sources on the chosen topic is required.	Students will write a 13-15 page research paper that should include at least 8 bibliographical sources on the topic of their choosing (see attached rubric) 70% of students will earn a score of 70% (C) or better)		
	==ISS 3013 tests students on their understanding of important social problems through 2 exams.==	70% of students will score 70% or higher on two exams.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

2. Communication Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2014-15
2a.Write clearly and effectively, producing well organized, logical, well-supported written arguments that reflect appropriate use of language and meet assignment objectives	ISS 4935 is the ISS capstone seminar; it require a major paper offering students an opportunity to identity a social problem analyze it, and demonstrate an understanding of how different social sciences approach the issue. A 13-15 page paper that includes at least 8 bibliographical sources on the chosen topic is required.	70% of students earn a score of 70% or better on the final draft of the paper.		
	In ISS 3013, Spring 2014 students will write an 8 to 10 page paper on a contemporary social issue to begin to prepare them for the more rigorous senior seminar paper.	80% of students will receive 80% or higher on the final draft of the paper.		
2b.Exhibit functional oral communication with minimal apprehension, and exhibit a willingness and readiness to communicate and share research results with	Fall 2013 ISS 3013 requires students to participate in 3 debates on important and controversial social issues.	70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on two of the debates, and a score of 80% or higher on at least one of the debates.		

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others	Spring 2014, ISS 3013 requires students to present their papers orally to their peers	70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on the presentation.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

3. Critical Thinking Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2014-15
3a.Demonstrate an understanding of how knowledge (in Social Science) is generated.	ISS 4935 requires students to prepare an annotated bibliography	70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on the annotated bibliography.		
	ISS 3013 Spring 2014 requires students to write an annotated bibliography of scholarly sources.	70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher on the annotated bibliography		
	ISS majors must take a research methods course. While we cannot track progress in the multiple courses that are available	70% of students in ISS 3930 will achieve a score of 70% or higher on 4 out of 7 projects		

	to our students, we can track achievement in our own research methods course, ISS 3930.			
3b.Demonstrate sound critical thinking by applying the intellectual standards of the <mark>university and the social science discourse community into which the student has entered through his or her concentration areas.</mark>	ISS 4935 requires a major paper in which the intellectual standards are displayed.	70% of students earn a score of 70% or better on the final draft of the paper.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

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4. Civic Engagement:				
Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in 2014-15
1.a. Students will demonstrate an ability to apply basic social science research methods in the preparation of reports based on the analysis of social issues that impact the local/regional community	ISS 4940 requires students to write a term paper analyzing the internship experience in the context of relevant theory and literature.	70% of students will complete the final report for the internship with a passing grade (course and assignments are pass/fail).		
	Students not enrolling in the internship will fulfill this objective through the writing of the term paper in ISS 4935.	70% of students will score a 70% or better on the final paper		
	In Fall 2013 Dr. K will add a community based project to ISS 3930 Qualitative Methods.	70% of students will score a 70% or higher o the project.		
	In Spring 2014, Dr. K will add a community based project to ISS 3013.	70% of students will score a 70% or higher o the project.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

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Attachment 1
USF St. Petersburg
Strategic Goals and Objectives, 2009-2013

1 – Academic Performance

Support and enhance programs that prepare students to be knowledgeable, reflective and engaged citizen scholars

1.1 Use sustained evidence of student learning outcomes and student achievement for continuous improvement
1.2 Offer certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs that meet regional needs
1.3 Implement and support information and instructional technologies that facilitate effective pedagogies
1.4 Enhance programs that specifically support academic excellence
1.5 Increase student awareness of participating in a global society

2 – Student Engagement

Enhance learning and achievement and promote retention through active engagement in curricular and co-curricular programs

2.1 Create a freshman experience that enables students to thrive and move successfully through to graduation
2.2 Foster institutional pride and strengthen connections within the campus community
2.3 Enhance opportunities for increased student involvement in curricular and co-curricular activities

3 – Diversity and Inclusion

Create a vibrant, inviting, and enriching university community that values and respects all individuals and whose students, faculty, and staff represent the diversity of its region

3.1 Ensure an inclusive community where differences are respected and valued
3.2 Attract and retain a diverse student population
3.3 Increase the diversity of faculty and staff

4 – Research and Creative Activities

Encourage faculty research and creative activities, and engage students in local, national and international scholarship

4.1 Create a vibrant culture of faculty research and creative scholarship
4.2 Promote and support undergraduate research as a meaningful aspect of campus life
4.3 Enhance and support research and scholarly collaborations with community partners

5 – Environmental Stewardship

Foster stewardship of the environment and embody the values of sustainability

5.1   Enhance sustainability through energy conservation and recycling

5.2   Create a community that champions environmental awareness and sustainable living

6 – Administrative and Financial Stewardship

Enhance revenue, provide effective and efficient financial management, and ensure institutional sustainability

6.1   Create and obtain funding streams to support short and long term initiatives

6.2   Increase private and corporate funding

6.3   Strengthen academic infrastructure of the university to ensure the proper alignment of instruction, services, and student life

6.4   Strengthen institutional infrastructure for the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff

6.5   Evaluate and improve facilities and processes that foster services to faculty, students, staff, and the community