

## **Political Science Assessment Plan --- Updated February 2012**

### Learning Goals for political science majors

1. To describe and apply basic political science information and concepts;
2. To conduct research and report the results orally and in writing;
3. To be able to apply critical thinking skills;
4. To encourage students to be active citizens on campus and in the community;
5. To enhance students' awareness of international political issues;
6. To enhance students' awareness of domestic political issues.

### Measures of Assessment

#### A. Direct measures

- review of seniors' work – done in capstone senior seminar during spring semesters
- regular classroom assessment – each instructor uses a variety of measures to assess several of the goals listed above. Assessment of student learning is done via tests, papers, in class discussions, small group work, and oral presentations.
- senior seminar portfolio – evaluation of the portfolio will begin spring 2014, as most 2014 senior seminar students would have been admitted in fall 2010, when the portfolio was introduced for incoming students

#### B. Indirect measures

- senior exit survey – administered in the capstone senior seminar each spring.
- alumni survey – the revised Alumni Survey was first administered in May 2010 and will next be administered during the 2013-14 academic year.

### Dissemination of findings

- Annual departmental retreat each August is largely devoted to a discussion of assessment findings and to planning curricular adjustments and academic goals accordingly.