

Philosophy Program
Assessment - May 2015
Brad Frazier

Overview

Since I was on sabbatical during the Fall semester, the data we have collected for assessment purposes this year is truncated. Also, the assessment plan itself was just crafted last May. So there hasn't been enough time yet to do comparisons by year and semester (and repeat courses). Still we have made some progress.

Measurable Learning Outcomes Analysis:

1. The learning outcomes set for Philosophy Majors have been met insofar as our current majors have passed Phil 114. Indeed, Nathan Mitchell, a philosophy major who is entering his senior year, served as an assistant to Michael Gorr, our philosophy adjunct, for the Phil 114 course this year.
2. This was the first spring since I have been here that I did not have a senior thesis student either in Philosophy or Religion. So there is no outcome to report on that score. Nate will prepare a position paper in his final semester, as noted in outcome goal #5 in the May 2014 plan.
3. All philosophy majors - established ones at least - have taken Mind (Phil 331) and already completed one course minimum in Psychology as well.
4. I have made no changes yet to the thesis requirement policy for Philosophy. Since I was on sabbatical in the Fall, I did not have extensive enough conversations with colleagues and have not reflected enough on this policy at this time to make a change. But the continuing viability of a senior thesis project in Philosophy will be revisited next year.

Additional Points:

Mainly this year - with the entire focus on the Spring semester, given the sabbatical - has been about collecting data to compare with information we will collect next year.

Both Mike Gorr and I have retained copies of student papers and exams from this past semester, which I now have. Also, Mike, at my request, has recorded for me his own reflections on each course he taught this year - how the course went overall, what can be improved, what must be kept as essential to the course, and how the course advanced the Philosophy Program's mission and that of Wells College overall.

During the 2015-16 academic year, I will continue to collect copies of papers and exams from all Philosophy courses (not all, random samples), and do a comparison for next year's assessment. I will do the same with Mike's courses.

Finally, I collected and reviewed Mike's evaluations. I do not find any glaring problems and continue to think that a seasoned philosopher with a Ph.D. from Brown who likes Wells students is a bargain for us as an adjunct professor. Mike also was evaluated by Advisory. I have not seen their report, but I will request it.

Once more data has been collected and compared across semesters, and across instructors (Mike and I alternate on several 100 and 200 level courses), there will be more to report in terms of assessing the Philosophy program.