

Example: 030 Science Course

1. Core Curriculum Course Objective: Students will be able to describe laws, theories or findings basic to the science discipline.

1.0 Specific Objective: 030 Science Course Students will be able to sequence correctly the timing of the major evolutionary events in the history of the Biosphere.

1.1.1 Plan:

1.1.1.1 Assessment Activity: 2-3 short-answer exam questions scored for correct ordering of events.

1.1.1.2 Success Criteria: Class average > 80% correctly ordering events

1.1.1.3 Assessment Timeframe: Midterm and final exams

1.1 Specific Objective: Students will be about to describe the major modes of life and how they changed over the course of evolutionary history.

1.2.1 Plan:

1.2.1.1 Assessment Activity: 5-8 multiple-choice exam questions testing understanding of different modes of life and their evolutionary changes.

1.2.1.2 Success Criteria: Class average > 75% correct across set of items.

1.2.1.3 Assessment Timeframe: Midterm exam

2. Core Curriculum Course Objective: Students will be able to apply scientific laws and principles of the discipline to arrive at problem solutions.

2.0 Specific Objective: Students will be able to apply the principles and history of evolution to explain the probably history and significance of specific aspects of the Biosphere.

2.1.1 Plan:

2.1.1.1 Assessment Activity: One rubric-scored essay exam question asking students to propose an explanation of an aspect of the Biosphere that was not explicitly covered in the course.

2.1.1.2 Success Criteria: Class average of at least 7 of 10 points on essays.

2.1.1.3 Assessment Timeframe: Midterm exam

2.1 Specific Objective: Students will be able to apply principles and history of the Biosphere evolution to address contemporary issues.

2.2.1 Plan:

2.2.1.1 Assessment Activity: One rubric-scored essay exam question that assesses student ability to infer how the cycling of carbon affects Earth's climate and the Biosphere.

2.2.1.2 Success Criteria: Class average of at least 7 of 10 points on essays.

2.2.1.3 Assessment Timeframe: Final exam

3. Core Curriculum Course Objective: Students will be able to explain how experiments or observations validate or test scientific concepts.

3.0 Specific Objective: Students will be able to explain the scientific observations that validate the important concepts in the history of the Biosphere (e.g., Snowball Earth, causes of mass extinction).

3.1.1 Plan:

3.1.1.1 Assessment Activity: 2 rubric-scored essay exam questions that have students explain the evidence supporting Snowball Earth and the different causes of mass extinctions.

3.1.1.2 Success Criteria: Students will average earning 7 of 10 points on essays.

3.1.1.3 Assessment Timeframe: Midterm and final exams

3.1 Specific Objective: Students will be able to explain the scientific observations that validate/test current views of origins, evolution and extinction in the Biosphere.

3.2.1 Plan:

3.2.1.1 Assessment Activity: 5-8 multiple-choice exam questions testing student knowledge of the types of evidence that pertain to specific concepts and hypothesized historical sequences.

3.2.1.2 Success Criteria: Class average > 75% correct across set of items.

3.2.1.3 Assessment Timeframe: Final exam