



## Democracy & Justice Studies | 2015-2016 Assessment Plan

The Ideals and Practices of Democracy and Justice:

DJS selected the first learning outcome for assessment for the 2015-2016 academic year: “Demonstrate knowledge about and describe diverse ideals and practices of democracy and justice in the United States and the world.” Two of the five methods identified on the assessment plan, namely authentic assessment and alumni survey, are still in development and won’t be used in this round of assessment.

The methods that will be used in this round are essay testing, internship performance, and the senior seminar (our capstone experience). In the original assessment plan, an essential knowledge test was proposed to be administered in DJS 101 and again in DJS 470 to gauge student learning over their career. However, the instrument has proven difficult to develop and the unit has become skeptical of the usefulness of an “objective” test for evaluating student understanding and growth. The current working plan is to replace a test with a broad essay question. For the essay testing piece currently in place, instructors in DJS 101 and DJS 349 assign essays to gauge how students have improved their abilities to meet all program learning outcomes, with attention focused on the first outcome. Alison Staudinger, the unit’s high impact experiences coordinator, will evaluate performance in the program, examining student internship portfolios with a simple rubric, which also takes into account the external internship supervisor’s assessment. For the capstone experience, DJS 470, evidence is being collected in the fall 2015 and spring 2016, in evaluation of written work and a service learning experience that directly relates to outcome one.

DJS 101, Introduction to Democracy and Justice Studies, is our team-taught introductory course. Eric Morgan and Alison Staudinger are the instructors of record for this year. DJS 349, American Political Thought, is our upper division theory course. Alison Staudinger is the instructor of record. These data are gathered in the spring. Both courses use D2L, so there is an extensive electronic record of student performance. For the capstone experience, Alison Staudinger and Yunsun Huh are instructors. The evaluation of these pieces will be conducted in the fall semester 2017. Evaluation will be conducted in teams, or by the unit as a whole, with participants reviewing the materials for evidence that allows faculty to determine student progress and efficacy of curriculum content and delivery. From this initial analysis, we’ll fine-tune our measures and assessment strategy, and identify initial areas to target for improvement in the next year.