

## 2012-13 International Studies BA Program Assessment Report (International Relations Concentration)

Report submitted by:  
Christopher A. McNally  
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Assessment activities have only begun to be developed for the International Studies BA program in the fall of 2012 due to several factors. First, the International Studies BA program did not have sufficient full-time faculty resources to manage it, advise students, and make required changes to its structure and curriculum between 2008 and 2012. Only Prof. Caryn Callahan was a full-time teaching faculty, managing the International Trade concentration under the International Studies BA program. With the appointment of Prof. Christopher McNally as associate professor in political economy in the fall of 2011 the International Studies BA program garnered sufficient faculty resources.

Second, as Prof. McNally began his position at Chaminade University, he and Prof. Callahan decided to implement major changes to the curriculum of the International Studies BA to streamline its course of study and make it more student-friendly. The restructured curriculum was proposed to Academic Council in the spring of 2012 and approved for AY 2012-2013. The changes to the curriculum are still being implemented and reviewed, including gauging student feedback and working out problems in the new structure, such as sufficient course offerings at given times, student participation in program-wide activities, etc.

Given these circumstances, Prof. Callahan and Prof. McNally felt it best to wait with developing a full range of assessment tools for the International Studies BA program until the new curriculum was fully implemented. Specifically, the new curriculum has changed the number and types of required core courses for both the international trade and international relations concentrations. One of the new set of required core courses (BU 402) is intended to serve as a capstone course that incorporates case study projects to assess the learning outcomes of students in both International Studies major concentrations.

During the fall of 2012 Prof. Callahan and Prof. McNally discussed various options for assessment tools and put together an initial assessment plan for the International Studies BA program. This plan is attached on page 3. In addition, various materials were collected from other programs to work on composing the exit survey and end of program assessment in International Studies. Work on putting together these assessment tools is ongoing, with initial tests of these tools on students to begin during AY 2013-2014. Over the coming years it is expected that there will be continuous updating and minor adjustments made to these tools to further refine and adapt them to the unique interdisciplinary context of the International Studies BA program.

Following the goals laid out in the Assessment Plan for the International Studies BA program, the following steps are expected to be taken during the remainder of AY 2012-

2013 and during AY 2013-2014. A first set of data will be collected from course evaluations; an exit survey will be drafted and tested on students; the capstone course (BU 402) case study projects will be initiated; and an end of program assessment test drafted and tested on students in their final year of study.

To start work on putting together assessment results during AY 2012-2013, one of the required core courses for the international relations concentration in the International Studies BA program – HI/POL 419 “Contemporary World Order” – did a course based assessment. The assessment tool (a multiple choice test) and the results are attached to this report for reference. This type of assessment is planned on being employed to build the end of program assessment test for the complete International Studies BA program, including a set of general multiple choice questions for majors in both concentrations, and two separate more specific sets of multiple choice questions for majors in each of the concentrations.

This initial assessment focused on the impact of the instructor’s learning strategies on the students’ ability to demonstrate an understanding of *key people, events and developments*. The students had to connect concepts to interpretations drawn from the readings, course activities, films, and lectures. The aggregate mean changed 163% to the positive for the class.

Overall, in the final assessment students as a whole scored an average of 73%, up from 28% in the initial assessment.

As mentioned above this served as an initial course assessment for one of the core courses following the major restructuring in the 2011-12. The data gathered indicate success in learning around Outcome #1, “the social and cultural contexts and issues which influence the conduct of international relations and trade.”