

Core Course Assessment Plan, 2018-19
Element 6: Natural Sciences

Please complete all sections; do not delete section information. Submit to Pilot when complete.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Dept. Prefix: EES Course #: 1030

Semester when assessment will occur: Fall 2019

Course Title: The Paleobiology of Dinosaurs

Section Types and number of sections offered in 2018-19. Complete all that apply.

<input type="text" value="1"/> Dayton face-to-face	<input type="text" value="1"/> Lake face-to-face
<input type="text"/> Dayton online	<input type="text"/> Lake online
<input type="text"/> Dayton Honors	<input type="text"/> Lake Honors

Attributes:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Integrative Writing in Core
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Multicultural Competency in Core
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Service Learning in Core

Dept. Core Assessment Lead:	David Schmidt	david.schmidt@wright.edu
	Name	email

List at least two assessors; this may include course instructor only if there are multiple sections and multiple instructors of the course. Note - The instructor may not assess his/her students' papers.

- David Schmidt
- Stacey Hundley
- _____
- _____

SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT PLAN

It is preferable to have the assessment plan for all sections of a course. If not feasible, please complete an assessment plan for separate sections.

Course Outcomes. Check here if Outcomes have been modified.

The course must address all 5 outcomes but must assess a minimum of 1 outcome. Highlight in yellow the outcome(s) you will assess. If you have modified the outcomes, please insert here in place of standard outcomes.

1. **Understand the nature of scientific inquiry;**
2. Critically apply knowledge of scientific theory and methods of inquiry to evaluate information from a variety of sources;
3. Distinguish between science and technology and recognize their roles in society;
4. Demonstrate an awareness of theoretical, practical, creative and cultural dimensions of scientific inquiry; and
5. Discuss fundamental theories underlying modern science.

Assignments. Select **one** of the options below for assessment of one or more outcomes

Written assignment(s) that addresses/address outcome(s). Include outcome #, title and description for each assignment.

Outcome #: 1 Title: Understand the nature of scientific inquiry

Description of assignment:

Essay question(s). Provide the question(s) and outcome(s) below.

Outcome #: 1 Essay Question: Discuss in detail how the scientific method involves gathering facts through observations and formulation of hypotheses and theories.

Pilot asynchronous written discussion that addresses outcome(s). Provide the outcome # and question(s).

- 1. Outcome #: _____ Discussion Question: _____
- 2. Outcome #: _____ Discussion Question: _____
- 3. Outcome #: _____ Discussion Question: _____

Multiple Choice or T/F Marker questions – 3 to 4 questions per outcome. List the outcome and question numbers. A rubric is not used for Marker questions. "All the above" should not be used as the correct answer more than once. **Courses that are IW or SRV/SRVI must use written assignments for those attributes.** Complete the benchmark: We expect _____% of students to answer _____% of the question(s) correctly.

- 1. Outcome #: _____
 - a) Question: _____
 - b) Question: _____
 - c) Question: _____
 - d) Question: _____
- 2. Outcome #: _____
 - a) Question: _____
 - b) Question: _____
 - c) Question: _____
 - d) Question: _____
- 3. Outcome #: _____
 - a) Question: _____
 - b) Question: _____
 - c) Question: _____
 - d) Question: _____

Collecting and submitting the student assignment(s)

_____ Will upload assignment(s) to Pilot _____ Will give access to assignment(s) on Pilot

Other: _____

Rubric Selection (A, B). Select the items you feel best match your assignment(s) in the rubric(s) on the next pages. Please highlight in yellow. **If this course has an IW attribute, please also see section B.**

A. Element 6 Rubric. Select the item(s) you will use in your rubric by highlighting in yellow the item(s). You may select one or more of them. As there is overlap, choose the items that best fit the assignment you select for assessment. The items below are taken from the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) Value Rubrics for Critical Thinking and Inquiry and Analysis.

IF YOU ARE USING MARKER QUESTIONS FOR THE OUTCOME, DO NOT USE THIS RUBRIC.

Item	Mastery 4	Partial Mastery 3	Progressing 2	Emerging 1
AACU Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric Items				
Explanation of issues	Issue/ problem to be considered critically is stated clearly and described comprehensively, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding.	Issue/ problem to be considered critically is stated, described, and clarified so that understanding is not seriously impeded by omissions.	Issue/ problem to be considered critically is stated but description leaves some terms undefined, ambiguities unexplored, boundaries undetermined, and/ or backgrounds unknown.	Issue/ problem to be considered critically is stated without clarification or description.
Evidence <i>Selecting and using information to investigate a point of view or conclusion</i>	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/ evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are questioned thoroughly.	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/ evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are subject to questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) with some interpretation/ evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are taken as mostly fact, with little questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) without any interpretation/ evaluation. Viewpoints of experts are taken as fact, without question.
Influence of context and assumptions	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies several relevant contexts when presenting a position. May be more aware of others' assumptions than one's own (or vice versa).	Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions). Begins to identify some contexts when presenting a position.

Student's position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis)	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) is imaginative, taking into account the complexities of an issue. Limits of position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) are acknowledged. Others' points of view are synthesized within position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) takes into account the complexities of an issue. Others' points of view are acknowledged within position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) acknowledges different sides of an issue.	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) is stated, but is simplistic and obvious.
Conclusions and related outcomes (implications and consequences)	Conclusions and related outcomes (consequences and implications) are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is logically tied to information (because information is chosen to fit the desired conclusion); some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are oversimplified.
Item	Mastery 4	Partial Mastery 3	Progressing 2	Emerging 1
AACU <u>Inquiry and Analysis</u> VALUE Rubric Items				
Topic selection	Identifies a creative, focused, and manageable topic that addresses potentially significant yet previously less-explored aspects of the topic.	Identifies a focused and manageable/ doable topic that appropriately addresses relevant aspects of the topic.	Identifies a topic that while manageable/ doable, is too narrowly focused and leaves out relevant aspects of the topic.	Identifies a topic that is far too general and wide-ranging as to be manageable and doable.
Existing Knowledge, Research, and/or Views	Synthesizes in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/ approaches.	Presents in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/ approaches.	Presents information from relevant sources representing limited points of view/ approaches.	Presents information from irrelevant sources representing limited points of view/ approaches.

Design Process	All elements of the methodology or theoretical framework are skillfully developed. Appropriate methodology or theoretical frameworks may be synthesized from across disciplines or from relevant sub disciplines.	Critical elements of the methodology or theoretical framework are appropriately developed, however, more subtle elements are ignored or unaccounted for.	Critical elements of the methodology or theoretical framework are missing, incorrectly developed, or unfocused.	Inquiry design demonstrates a misunderstanding of the methodology or theoretical framework.
Analysis	Organizes and synthesizes evidence to reveal insightful patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	Organizes evidence to reveal important patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	Organizes evidence, but the organization is not effective in revealing important patterns, differences, or similarities.	Lists evidence, but it is not organized and/ or is unrelated to focus.
Conclusions	States a conclusion that is a logical extrapolation from the inquiry findings.	States a conclusion focused solely on the inquiry findings. The conclusion arises specifically from and responds specifically to the inquiry findings.	States a general conclusion that, because it is so general, also applies beyond the scope of the inquiry findings.	States an ambiguous, illogical, or unsupported conclusion from inquiry findings.
Limitations and Implications	Insightfully discusses in detail relevant and supported limitations and implications.	Discusses relevant and supported limitations and implications.	Presents relevant and supported limitations and implications.	Presents limitations and implications, but they are possibly irrelevant and unsupported.

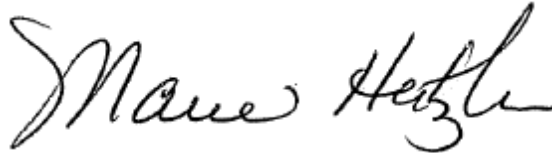
B. If this is an IW course, you will use the items on this page. You may select one or more of them. Please highlight in yellow.

Item	Mastery 4	Partial Mastery 3	Progressing 2	Emerging 1
Includes considerations of audience, purpose, and the circumstances surrounding the writing task(s).	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of context, audience, and purpose that is responsive to the assigned task(s) and focuses all elements of the work.	Demonstrates adequate consideration of context, audience, and purpose and a clear focus on the assigned task(s) (e.g., the task aligns with audience, purpose, and context).	Demonstrates awareness of context, audience, purpose, and to the assigned tasks(s) (e.g., begins to show awareness of audience's perceptions and assumptions).	Demonstrates minimal attention to context, audience, purpose, and to the assigned tasks(s) (e.g., expectation of instructor or self as audience).
Content Development	Uses appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to illustrate mastery of the subject, conveying the writer's understanding, and shaping the whole work.	Uses appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to explore ideas within the context of the discipline and shape the whole work.	Uses appropriate and relevant content to develop and explore ideas through most of the work.	Uses appropriate and relevant content to develop simple ideas in some parts of the work.
Formal and informal rules inherent in the expectations for writing in particular forms and/or academic fields (please see glossary).	Demonstrates detailed attention to and successful execution of a wide range of conventions particular to a specific discipline and/or writing task (s) including organization, content, presentation, formatting, and stylistic choices	Demonstrates consistent use of important conventions particular to a specific discipline and/or writing task(s), including organization, content, presentation, and stylistic choices	Follows expectations appropriate to a specific discipline and/or writing task(s) for basic organization, content, and presentation	Attempts to use a consistent system for basic organization and presentation.
Sources and Evidence	Demonstrates skillful use of high-quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing	Demonstrates consistent use of credible, relevant sources to support ideas that are situated within the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use credible and/or relevant sources to support ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use sources to support ideas in the writing.
Control of Syntax and Mechanics	Uses graceful language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, and is virtually error-free.	Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers. The language in the portfolio has few errors.	Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include some errors.	Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.

SECTION 3: UCRC COMMITTEE REVIEW ONLY. DO NOT delete this section.

Item	Complete / NA / Revision Requested	Comments
Learning Outcomes for Element 6 Natural Science	Complete	
Assignments matched to Element 6 LOs	Complete	
Rubric for LOs	Revision Requested	Please select which rubric items will be used (see pages 3-5)
Rubric for IW Attribute	N/A	
Assigned Approved Reviewers	Complete	Other: Please indicate how you will collect and submit the student artifacts (see page 2)

Committee Review Completed



Committee Chair Signature

Date April 26, 2018

Note: Report Template will be added to each of the individualized assessment plans to facilitate having one final document (assessment and report) for each course.

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENT REPORT DUE May 7, 2021

A separate report needs to be submitted for each assessment plan approved by the Undergraduate Core Oversight Committee (UCOC).

Please upload this entire document to the Pilot course called Element 5 Core Course Assessment 2020-21 (continuous year) by Friday, May 7, 2021. The Final Report Dropbox link can be accessed via Content > Dropbox (Plans, Reports) > Final Report Dropbox.

Date Report Submitted:

Element: Core Element 2 – Mathematics or Core Element 6 – Natural Science

Academic Year: Element 6 – 2018 to 2019 Element 2 – 2019 to 2020 (adjust dates based on data collection).

Course and Sections Assessed:

Describe the final assessment plan that was implemented and explain any changes made to the approved plan.

I. Core Learning Outcomes Assessed (list):

II. Procedures Used for Assessment

For **each** learning outcome addressed by this report, state where and when data were collected (in a course, exam, or performance) and how they were evaluated (e.g. rubric, rating scale, key questions from exams, etc.). Specify the course or courses where students demonstrated the outcomes (if applicable) and the assignment(s) that you used for assessment purposes (e.g., capstone project, final examination, research paper, student presentation, performance, portfolio, etc.).

III. Summary of Assessment Results:

What did you find from your assessments? (Present and analyze the results from the Aqua system analysis by Vice Provost Tammy Kahrig and/or your departmental review of marker questions.) What did your data reveal about how well students are achieving the Core Learning Outcomes that you listed above? After analyzing your data, present a summary of the data, clearly indicating what any numbers represent (e.g. percentages? means? medians?). Please number each corresponding assessment, summary, and analysis.

Benchmark Met Yes or No

If not met, please identify conditions (if any) that may have impacted these findings.

IV. ACTIONS TAKEN/PLANNED TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

Describe how you shared the results with instructors of the courses, the department curriculum committee and chair, Lake campus, and other stakeholders. Explain briefly how department faculty will make improvements based upon the assessment findings (e.g. plans to gather more information; recommending changes to the learning outcomes or assessment procedures; changes in course content, instructional approaches, technology, order of course offerings, materials, resources, assignments, policies, funding, advising, planning, training for adjuncts, etc.).

V. Assessment Administration Feedback

The assessment of the courses was part of the Core assessment cycle. The assessment plan was reviewed and approved by the UCOC. The UCOC provided a presentation on tools available to assist with the assessment, including Watermark Aqua.

Please describe any changes you recommend about the oversight of the assessment process by the UCOC and the Academic Affairs office.

UCOC Report Review

Item	Complete/NA	Revision Requested	Comments
Identified Outcome Assessed	XX		
Identified Procedure for Assessment	XX		
Summary of Results	XX		
Results Shared with Instructor, Dept Curriculum Committee, etc.	XX		
Plan for Improvements	XX		

Committee Review Completed XXX

Committee Chair Signature Dr. Ann M. Bowling Date December 2021