

Course Assessment– Part B: Your Results & Analysis

#197

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PSY 202A – Introduction to Psychology – Part 2 – Kristen Kane – Winter 2017

Part B: Your Results

Directions

1. Report the outcome achievement data gathered via the assignments, tests, etc. you identified for each outcome (question 3) of your Part A. *

Outcome #1; Method to assess student understanding *

Analyze personal lifestyle and apply problem-solving techniques to situations while understanding the limitations of one's psychological knowledge and skills, recognizing that ethically complex situations can develop in the application of psychological principles.

Students were assessed using:

Forums: Week 1 (Q#1-5) = 96%, Week 3 (Q#1,2,5) = 96%, Week 4 (Q#1-5) = 95%, Week 6 (Q#1- 5) = 96%, Week 7 (Q#1, 4, 5) = 94%, Week 8 (Q#1, 2, 3, 4) = 96%, Week 9 (Q#3) = 70%, Week 10 (#1, 2, 5) = 89%

Quizzes: CH 7 Q#15 = 92%, CH 10 Q#8 = 85%, 12 = 81%, 22 = 81%, CH 11 Q#1 = 77%, 2 = 77%, 6 = 85%, 9 = 73%, 13 = 73% CH14 Q#1 = 81%, 2 = 92%, 11 = 92%, CH13 Q#22 = 81%

Reflection Papers = 84%

Outcome #2: Method to assess student understanding *

Recognize and explain the difference between personal views and scientific evidence and identify claims arising from myths, stereotypes, common fallacies, and poorly supported assertions regarding behavior.

Students were assessed using:

Forums: Week 1 (Q#1, 2, 5) = 97%, Week 2 (Q#1, 3, 5) = 91%, Week 3 (Q#3,4,5) = 95%, Week 7 (Q#1, 4, 5) = 94%, Week 8 (Q#1, 2, 3, 4) = 95%, Week 9 (Q#2, 3) = 76%, Week 10 (#1-5) = 85%

Quizzes: CH 14 Q#7 = 81%, 12 = 85%, 23 = 77% CH 16 Q#1 = 85%, 9 = 81%, 18 = 85% CH13 Q#3 = 88%, 13 = 88%

Reflection Papers = 84%

Outcome #3: Method to assess student understanding *

Evaluate public and private assumptions concerning individual and group differences using a global and multifaceted sociocultural approach.

Students were assessed using:

Forums: Week 3 (Q#3, 4, 5) = 94%, Week 6 (1-5) = 96%, Week 7 (Q#1, 4, 5) = 93%, Week 8 (Q#1, 2, 3, 4) = 96%, Week 9 (Q#1, 3) = 75%, Week 10 (Q#1-5) = 85%

Quizzes: CH13 Q#2 = 85%, 4 = 92%, 6 = 81%, 10 = 88%, 14 = 92%, 21 = 85%, 23 = 92%, 25 = 85%

Outcome #1

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Analyze personal lifestyle and apply problem-solving techniques to situations while understanding the limitations of one's psychological knowledge and skills, recognizing that ethically complex situations can develop in the application of psychological principles.

% of students who successfully achieved the outcome (C or above) * 86

Outcome #2 *

Recognize and explain the difference between personal views and scientific evidence and identify claims arising from myths, stereotypes, common fallacies, and poorly supported assertions regarding behavior.

% of students who successfully achieved the 87

outcome (C or above) *

Outcome #3 *

Evaluate public and private assumptions concerning individual and group differences using a global and multifaceted sociocultural approach.

% of students who successfully achieved the outcome (C or above) * 88.5

ANALYSIS

3. What contributed to student success and/or lack of success? *

I was disappointed in the rate of student achievement of the assessed outcomes for this course. I was hoping that 100% would earn a C or above, however 86% achieved outcome 1 at a B or above, 87% earned a B or above for outcome 2, and 88.5% earned a C or above for outcome 3.

There is no reason for students to earn less than an A on the quiz questions, since they have the opportunity to retake the quiz as many times as they would like and considering that this is an online course, it's pretty much an open book test. So for the quiz scores, I can only assume that more students did not earn a B was because they chose not to use the re-take option. For the forums had a much higher rate of success, until the last few weeks, when students were most likely working on their final papers: not everyone completed the forums, which affected student grades.

As far as the reflection papers, again most of the grades were affected by students either not turning in the papers or turning them in late.

In summary, it seems like most of the results were due to student late work, students not completing the assignments or students not taking the opportunities for re-dos.

4. Helping students to realistically self-assess and reflect on their understanding and progress encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning. Consider comparing your students' perception of their end-of-term understanding/mastery of the three outcomes (found in student evaluations) to your assessment (above) of student achievement of the three outcomes. *

For Outcome 1, most students started at a fair to good understanding of that outcome. By the end of the term, 94% felt that they had attained a very good to excellent understanding of the outcome. This is a higher percentage than my assessments indicate, however, it should be noted that only 75% of students completed the SCE, so it could very likely be that those who completed did achieve that outcome with a B or better (if I assume a B is very good or above)

For Outcomes 2, again most students started at a fair to good understanding of that outcome. By the end of the term, 86% felt that they had attained a very good to excellent understanding of the outcome. Student self-assessment is closer to my own assessments; however, again, I want to note that only 75% of students completed the SCE, so the percentage of students who felt that they had a B or above understanding of Outcome 2 could be somewhat lower.

For Outcome 3, most students started at a fair to good understanding of that outcome. By the end of the term, 100% felt that they had attained a good to excellent understanding of the outcome (my expectations for this outcome were lower, only hoping for them to achieve a C or better, because this outcome is generally a little more difficult for students to grasp). This is a higher percentage than my assessments indicate, however, it should be noted that only 75% of students completed the SCE, so it could very likely be that those who completed did achieve that outcome with a C or better.

5. Did student achievement of outcomes meet your expectations for successfully teaching to each outcome (question 4 from Part A) *

No, my expectations were not met (see my thoughts in question 3). I set a pretty high goal for my students because they have many opportunities to practice meeting the outcomes which should contribute to success. I provide them with ample resources as well

6. Based on your analysis in the questions above, what course adjustments are warranted (curricular, pedagogical, student instruction, etc.)? *

At this point, I am not sure. I am thinking that there may be too many minor assignments that I am using to assess student achievement of the outcomes. It might be better if I just have 5 final forums during the last week of class that test student understanding and achievement of the outcomes for the course. This would allow students to practice throughout the term meeting the outcomes, then answer culminating questions at the end of term. I think this would be a better way of assessing student understanding.

7. What resources would be required to implement your recommended course adjustments (materials, training, equipment, etc.)? What Budget implications result? *

None

8. Were your assessment methods accurate indicators of student learning? Why or why not? Any additional comments? *

I think they were accurate, but I think they could be better. One culminating assessment would probably be a better measure than many minor assessments.

(OPTIONAL) Reflect on any adjustments you made from the last assessment of this course and their effectiveness in student achievement of outcomes?

In winter of 2014, when I last assessed this course, I had suggested that it might be better to have students answer all 5 forums (instead of 3) to assure that I was assessing them on all outcomes. Similarly, I stated that I should somehow ensure that students were writing their reflection papers so that they were addressing the unit outcomes (which lead to the course outcomes). I did make these changes to the course: now all students answer all 5 forums, and the students are directed to focus their reflection papers on the unit outcomes.

I have noticed that students' achievement of outcomes is a little lower, although not much. My expectations however are higher for students because of the increased alignment with measuring achievement of outcomes. I still think my assessment methods need some fine tuning (see response to Q 6) and will work on making these changes to the course. Interestingly, students now concur that the forums are their favorite part of the course (instead of the reflection papers). Not that this has anything to do with achieving outcomes, but I think it's interesting that they enjoy the forums more, even though they are required to do more of them.

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