

Department Plan  
Long Beach City College  
Dept - History & Political Science

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**Mission:** The Department of History and Political Science plays a central role in fulfilling the college's mission statement by offering quality undergraduate training that assists students in completing an AA/AS degree, transferring to the UC/CSU systems, or transferring to private and out of state colleges and universities. The Department focuses on offering courses that fulfill core lower division graduation and general education requirements, and it provides a range of specialty courses for future majors in both history and political science. Finally, the Department serves the Long Beach Community by providing training in intellectual, cultural, and civic development, which makes students that complete these courses better citizens.

**Description:** The Department of History and Political Science provides courses that are at the core of the college's educational mission. Courses offered by the Department are prominently featured on the Intersegmental General Education Curriculum (IGETC, Plan C) and the California State University General Education Breadth requirements (Plan B). No other department has courses that fulfill requirements in four separate categories of these plans: American History, Political Science, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Beyond this core objective, the Department offers lower division discipline requirements and general advisement for future history and political science majors. To that end, the Department works closely with key transfer institutions, particularly California State University, Long Beach, to ensure that our students seamlessly enter those majors with their lower division course work complete. The Department provides courses with content that fosters historical, political, cultural, and civic literacy, and encourages students in the attainment of civic engagement and cultural understanding necessary to be well-rounded members of the community. The Department serves non-traditional students through its numerous online course offerings. Department members provide leadership and participate enthusiastically in important campus-wide programs that benefit students, such as the Honors Program, the Community Studies Program, the Senior Studies Center and interdisciplinary studies programs in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Department members sponsor key ASB Student Clubs such as the Political Science Student Association that adds depth to its members' academic experiences and provides campus-wide public affairs events for an enhanced educational experience for the general student body.

**Summary of Access, Productivity & Effectiveness:** The Department focuses on offering courses that fulfill core lower division general education requirements for degree completion and transfer. Accordingly, department course offerings are consistently in high demand.

**Effectiveness:** Over the previous three years, because of administrative budget cuts to departmental offerings, the Department has experienced a 4% reduction in sections offered (276 offered in 2010-11). However, we have experienced a 14% increase in FTES and a 14% increase in WSCH. The department has therefore become significantly more efficient in managing student demand for courses. The Department has achieved modest, but measurable improvements in Student Success Rates, Retention Rates, and Completion Rates for its history and political science courses over the same three year period. In part because the Department does not require the completion of prerequisites for enrollment in its courses, the Department encounters issues of basic skills readiness, retention, and student success that face the larger college community. The Department remains committed to actively participate in campus-wide initiatives to identify and address these issues.

**External Condition- Accreditation:** The Department has articulated a program plan and strategies to support college-wide goals relating to student learning outcomes and assessment that have been mandated by the Western Association of Schools and

**Recommendations:** Colleges.

**Faculty & Staff :** The Department of History and Political Science currently has 14 full-time members and 22 adjunct faculty.

**Names & Titles of Program Review Participants:** The following members of the Department of History and Political Science have contributed to this Program Plan: Professor Eugene Goss, Department Head, and Professor Paul Savoie, Department SLO Officer.

**2009-2010 Accomplishments:** Over the past eighteen months, members of the Department of History and Political Science have been

engaged in a deep and extended conversation centering around issues of the development of course level and program level student learning outcomes, as well as their effective and authentic assessment. These conversations, which involved both full-time and adjunct instructors, have focused on combating a number of common misconceptions regarding SLO development and assessment and emphasizing the numerous ways in which assessment can help to enhance teaching practice, increase levels of student success, and inform program planning priorities and activities.

By the Fall 2010 semester the Department completed Student Learning Outcomes for all of the courses in our curriculum. By the end of the Spring 2011 semester, assessment plans will be in place for all courses in History and Political Science, as well as for the program as a whole. In addition, initial assessment tasks will be undertaken for some of the SLOs in the department's high-demand courses, including HIST 10, HIST 11, and POLSC 1, and for some of the program SLOs. Our department embraced the new program review regime and has successfully utilized tracdat to participate in it. As mentioned above under "Summary of Access, Productivity & Effectiveness," our department has been very successful in managing the increased student demand for our

course while at the same time experiencing administrative cuts to our budget. We are among the highest FTES producing departments in the college and we are doing with this with less course sections.

**2010-2011 Accomplishments:** The History and Political Science Department contributed significantly to the college in 2010-2011 through the following accomplishments. We are among the highest FTES producing departments in the college and we are doing with this with less course sections, thereby making us more efficient in keeping with a major college-wide goal. The department increased its online course offerings in keeping with a major college-wide goal. We offered more sections of our core-courses at the PCC Campus in keeping with a major college-wide goal. We routinized the Course Level Assessment of our core courses, History 10, History 11 and Political Science 1. We developed new ATT Transfer Degrees in both History and Political Science for submittal to the Curriculum Committee in Fall 2011. The Long Beach Community Studies Project held its first conference here in Long Beach. The conference attracted a wide range of professional academics, students and interested members of the public and was an outstanding success. The Political Science Student Association sponsored and conducted a Congressional Candidates Forum on campus, which afforded students and members of the community an opportunity to listen to and meet candidates running for Congress. The Department sponsored and provided faculty participants for the "Facebook Revolution" event on campus. This event featured academic experts, and, also, students from Egypt to discuss the revolutions progressing in the Middle East. This was a significant opportunity for students and members of the community to learn about a crucial development in world affairs.

### Goal: Improve and Expand Instructional and Program Capabilities

To enhance our department's ability to offer quality, cutting edge instruction and to maintain and expand the general reach of our department's programs, including the ATT History and Political Science Degree programs now being developed for submission to the Curriculum Committee.

**Year:** 2009 - 2010  
2010 - 2011

**Start Date:** 11/12/2009

**Goal Status:** In Progress

**Goal Priority:** High

**Rationale:** The demand for History and Political Science classes is strong and growing. The department had a full time political scientist resign unexpectedly two years ago and lost a historian to retirement in the Spring 2010 Semester. Our total FTES from POLSC 1, HIST 10 and HIST 11 and other courses necessary for transfer and graduation is dramatically larger than most departments and has grown 14% in the past 3 years. Adjunct instructors are available but do not have a vested interest in the long term success of our program. Furthermore, the department will be offering new ATT Degrees in History and Political Science within the next one to two years and will need specialists in both areas that are not presently on staff.

**Strategies:** The department will actively pursue this goal through the Hiring Priorities process and will continue to seek this goal until the need is met.

**Responsible Parties:** To be determined

**Campus supported by this goal:** Both

**Specify if goal is for department or sub-area:**

Department/ Program

**Level of Support Needed:** School or VP

School or VP

### Related Resources Needed

\* Resources Needed Name: New full-time faculty

**Resources Needed** We need to hire at least two new full time faculty; one political scientist and one historian for the History and

**Description:** Political Science Department.

**Inter-Level/ VP Level Group** Not Approved

**Decision:**

**Fiscal Year:** 2010 - 2011

**Duration:** On-going

**Estimated Cost:** 240000.0000

**Type of Resource** Personnel

**Requested:**

**Justification for Resource** Needed for growth, subject coverage, and attrition.

**Request:**

**Department Code:** 220500 History & Political Sc

**Requested Funding Source:** General Fund

### Goal: Transfer and Degree Completion

Maintain a program of quality undergraduate courses to assist our students in successfully graduating with an associate degree and to increase transfer success.

**Year:** 2009 - 2010  
2010 - 2011

2011 - 2012

**Start Date:** 08/14/2009

**Goal Status:** In Progress

**Goal Priority:** High

**Rationale:** Increasing transfer success has been identified as a major institutional goal in the Superintendent-President's 24-month agenda and is a key mission of the department.

**Strategies:** Provide general advisement to students, inside and outside the classroom, regarding academic preparation and transfer, including those planning to pursue a major in history or political science.

Regularly collaborate with faculty from history and political science departments at major transfer institutions to maintain program currency and relevance, as well as transferability of program courses.

Continue to collaborate with teachers and program staff at Long Beach Unified School District to improve history instruction at the elementary and secondary levels through a U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History grant.

Participate in campuswide initiatives in the areas of basic skills, equity, and student success.

Collaborate as a department on how best to utilize new teaching resources available in the South Quad classrooms.

**Responsible Parties:** Entire department

**Campus supported by this** Both

**goal:**

**Specify if goal is for** Department/ Program  
**department or sub-area:**

**Level of Support Needed:** Department

### **Goal: Course-Level Assessment**

Routinize the use of course-level assessment of student learning outcomes consistent with both internal and external guidelines and requirements

**Year:** 2009 - 2010

2010 - 2011

2011 - 2012

**Start Date:** 08/24/2009

**Goal Status:** In Progress

**Goal Priority:** High

**Rationale:** The Department seeks to incorporate and routinize the use of Student Learning Outcomes assessment to improve instruction at the course level and to better serve our students. The Department seeks to develop assessment tools within the department that are consistent with institutional goals and mandated by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

**Strategies:** Build on what has worked in numerous inter-departmental "pilot programs" in assessment for HIST 10 and other courses

Collaborate together as a department to create meaningful and reliable assessment methods at the course level

**Responsible Parties:** Entire department

**Campus supported by this** Both

**goal:**

**Specify if goal is for** Department/ Program  
**department or sub-area:**

**Level of Support Needed:** Department

### **Goal: Finalize and Implement Program Level SLO Assessment Plan**

The History and Political Science Department seeks to formalize a Program Level Assessment Plan for the Program Level SLOs we have developed. After the Plan is formalized we will implement it beginning in Spring 2012.

**Year:** 2011 - 2012

**Start Date:** 10/03/2011

**End Date:** 07/01/2012

**Goal Status:** NEW

**Goal Priority:** High

**Rationale:** The department seeks to establish and routinize the use of Program Level SLOs to help understand the learning challenges facing the department as a whole, and as an aid to developing approaches to improve learning

across the department.

**Strategies:** Collaborate as a department to create and implement a meaningful and reliable Program Level assessment plan.  
A series of departmental meetings will be scheduled for addressing this goal.

**Responsible Parties:** Entire department

**Campus supported by this** Both

**goal:**

**Specify if goal is for** Department/ Program

**department or sub-area:**

**Level of Support Needed:** Department