

OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

Department of History & Political Science

AY 2007-2008

August 25, 2008

History
Social Studies

B.A. Major
B.A. Major

Outcomes Assessment Report prepared by:

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Mission of the Discipline of History & Political Science

Historical and political awareness and understanding constitutes one of the chief attributes of a functional and involved citizen of the United States. It is the mission of this department to provide an education that will contribute to the realization of this ideal by every student. We also seek to train graduates to work in a variety of public and private sector jobs, utilizing their historical and political skills and knowledge. Finally, the department is committed to preserving, interpreting, and promoting the unique multicultural heritage of the region.

Goals of the History Program

It is our goal to train students for careers in teaching plus various kinds of professional employment as well as to prepare students for advanced graduate programs, especially law school. Professional applications of history include careers in public affairs, business, and the private sector where research, communication, and other liberal arts skills are appreciated.

Program Student Outcomes

1. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of major historical periods, figures, and developments.
2. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to demonstrate a comprehension of the fundamental processes of historical analysis.
3. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the literature in given fields.
4. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to write an historical paper using appropriate content, methodologies, and format; that is well organized; that states and defends a position or thesis; and that demonstrates competent use of language.
5. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to demonstrate that they have been challenged by the history program and approve of the teaching and advising they have received.

- Please note that with HIST 480 Historiography being cancelled last spring because of low enrollment, the data that we expected from this course was not available for the preparation of this report.

Intended Educational Outcome 1

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of major historical periods, figures, and developments.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1 & Data Results

A departmental "Portfolio Checklist for Outcomes Assessment" (see attachment) will be used to evaluate samples of student work.

Content (accuracy of factual material): 2

Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 2

Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 2

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1 & Data Results

All majors will complete an exit survey-questionnaire (see attachment).

Understanding the field of history: 1.5

Student Comments: ----

Use of Results

We believe that these results are good, though we would like to be consistently in the "Excellent" range. We will discuss these results and ways to improve them in a discipline meeting later this fall semester.

Intended Educational Outcome 2

Students will be able to demonstrate a comprehension of the fundamental processes of historical analysis.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2 & Data Results

A departmental "Portfolio Checklist for Outcomes Assessment" (see attachment) will be used to evaluate samples of student work.

Content (accuracy of factual material): 2

Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 2

Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 2

Use of relevant material to support thesis/arguments: 2

Organization (chronology, logical progression, assertion and conclusion): 2

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2 & Data Results

All majors will complete an exit survey-questionnaire (see attachment).

Understanding the field of history: 1.5

Critical analysis of written arguments: 2

Student Comments: ----

Use of Results

We believe that these results are good, though we would like to be consistently in the "Excellent" range. We will discuss these results and ways to improve them in a discipline meeting later this fall semester.

Intended Educational Outcome 3

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of literature in given fields.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3 & Data Results

A departmental "Portfolio Checklist for Outcomes Assessment" (see attachment) will be used to evaluate samples of student work.

- Content (accuracy of factual material): 2
- Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 2
- Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 2
- Use of relevant material to support thesis/arguments: 2

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 3 & Data Results

All majors will complete an exit survey-questionnaire (see attachment).

Understanding the field of history: 1.5

Student Comments: ----

Use of Results

We believe that these results are good, though we would like to be consistently in the "Excellent" range. We will discuss these results and ways to improve them in a discipline meeting later this fall semester.

Intended Educational Outcome 4

Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to write an historical paper using appropriate content, methodologies, and format; that is well organized; that states and defends a position or thesis; and that demonstrates competent use of language.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4 & Data Results

A departmental "Portfolio Checklist for Outcomes Assessment" (see attachment) will be used to evaluate samples of student work.

- Content (accuracy of factual material): 2
- Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 2
- Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 2
- Use of language: 2
- Use of relevant material to support thesis/arguments: 2
- Organization (chronology, logical progression, assertion and conclusion): 2
- Form (citations, bibliography, etc., as appropriate): 2

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 4 & Data Results

All majors will complete an exit survey-questionnaire (see attachment).

- Understanding the field of history: 2
- Critical analysis of written arguments: 2
- Writing clearly and persuasively: 2
- Developing the skills necessary for research: 2
- Proper formatting for bibliography & footnotes: 2

Student comments:

In response to Question 3.3 on the Student Questionnaire (Considering what you learned while in the History program, what has been most useful or helpful to you?), one student wrote "understanding sources,

footnotes”; another wrote, “being able to break down a source to gather information; not just taking a source for what is written”

Use of Results

We believe that these results are rather good, though we would like to be in the “Excellent” range. At the least, some fine-tuning of HIST 301 is perhaps called for. We will discuss these results and ways to improve them in a discipline meeting later this fall semester.

Intended Educational Outcome 5

Students will demonstrate that they have been challenged by the history program and approve of the teaching and advising they have received.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 5 & Data Results

All majors will complete an exit survey-questionnaire (see attachment).

Data Results

Quality of courses offered: 1.5

Variety of courses offered: 3

Availability of courses offered: 3

Accessibility and approachability of faculty: 1.5

Education and qualifications of faculty: 1

Quality of academic advising: 1

Overall, how would you rate the academic quality of the History program? 1.5

Student comments:

“More courses other than New Mexico or European history”; “I believe having a variety of courses in different subjects would attract more students to the history program”

“I wish there were more choices in the courses I could take”

Use of Results

Dissatisfaction with the variety of courses offered seems to be a perennial criticism of our history program. It is a hopeful sign that our dean, Dr. Lujan, has asked us to submit a job description for a new history position to begin Fall 2010.