

## OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

### Department of History & Political Science

AY 2009-2010

January 18 , 2011

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.

#### **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): 1.7

Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 1.9

Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 1.7

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1 & Data Results**

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

Understanding the field of history: 1.43

Student Comments:

How to “read” history: you can’t read like you would in K-12 schooling.

I really learned a lot about historiography. This class helped me understand more the different types of history and their significance.

**Use of Results**

These are good results; we will talk as a discipline how to make them even better.

**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): 1.7

Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 1.9

Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 1.7

Use of relevant material to support thesis/arguments: 1.6

Organization (chronology, logical progression, assertion and conclusion): 1.6

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2 & Data Results**

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

Understanding the field of history: 1.43

Critical analysis of written arguments: 1.43

Student Comments: ----

**Use of Results**

These are good results; we will talk as a discipline how to make them even better.

**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): 1.7

Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 1.9

Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 1.7

Use of relevant material to support thesis/arguments: 1.6

### **Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 3 & Data Results**

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

Understanding the field of history: 1.43

Student Comments: ----

### **Use of Results**

These are good results; we will talk as a discipline how to make them even better.

### **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): 1.7

Understanding/review/use of literature in the field: 1.9

Comprehension of historical processes and interpretation: 1.7

Use of language: 1.6

Use of relevant material to support thesis/arguments: 1.6

Organization (chronology, logical progression, assertion and conclusion): 1.6

Form (citations, bibliography, etc., as appropriate): 1.9

### **Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 4 & Data Results**

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

Understanding the field of history: 1.43

Critical analysis of written arguments: 1.43

Writing clearly and persuasively: 1.5

Developing the skills necessary for research: 1.5

Proper formatting for bibliography & footnotes: 1.78

Student Comments: ----

### **Use of Results**

With the exception of "Form" and "Proper formatting for bibliography & footnotes," the results are very good. As to the just-mentioned parameters, perhaps there is something that we can do as a discipline in order to get those numbers closer to 1.

### **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: 1.78  
Variety of courses offered: 2.07  
Availability of courses offered: 2.36  
Accessibility and approachability of faculty:  
Education and qualifications of faculty: 1.29  
Quality of academic advising: 1.57  
Overall, how would you rate the academic quality of the History program? 1.5

### Student comments:

Answers to the question "Considering what you have learned while in the History program, what has been most useful or helpful to you?"

Being able to approach professors and having them solve any questions or issues I was having.

Everyone has been helpful. I have especially enjoyed the literature accompanying the classes.

Skills for research and critical writing.

Emails and office visits. Dept. secretary has been helpful.

How to "read" history: you can't read like you would in K-12 schooling.

I really learned a lot about historiography. This class helped me understand more the different types of history and their significance.

Writing skills.

I just started but I'm glad I took 301 right off the bat; I believe that will help me greatly in the rest of my classes .. It has helped me in HIST 347 Mexico.

History lectures tend to be well thought out and executed with excitement over the material.

Answers to the question "Are there subjects, courses, or competencies that you think ought to be covered in the History program?"

It would be nice to see a World War I course offered, although the program does offer a wide variety of courses.

I think some anthropology courses should be acceptable in the history program.

History of religion would be great.

More variety would be nice.

More American history classes.

I would like to see HIST 225 Spain & Portugal offered.

Perhaps Middle Eastern/Asian history.

Answers to the question "What other recommendations would you make to improve the History program?"

More classes per semester.

Availability of upper-level classes is not the greatest.

It would help me if more history classes were offered over ITV.

HIST 301 should be 2 semesters. Not enough time for thorough research.

I would recommend that the Research Methods class be a year long. More time to develop and learn a proper research paper.

I think the Research Methods class should be 2 semesters instead of one.

## Use of Results

Dissatisfaction with the number of courses offered by the department is a criticism that we see year after year. However, our request for a fourth historian went essentially nowhere, and in the current budgetary environment, clearly it will not happen anytime soon.