Program Assessment Plan
American University
Academic Program: CAS: Art History - MA

Academic Program: CAS: Art History - MA

Program Mission: For MA students: Demonstrate recognition of major monuments of Western art history and specific areas of Asian art history. Demonstrate understanding of aesthetic and cultural/social/political contexts in which these works were created. Demonstrate ability to recognize and use varied methodologies typical of art historical scholarship over the past century. Demonstrate ability to develop and research original scholarly topics using appropriate scholarly sources.

For MA students, basic undergraduate skills will be further articulated both in terms of methods of research and in terms of sophistication of intellectual and analytical understanding and practice in research projects.

Contact Person for Assessment:
Helen Langa, Director, Art History Program

Unit Website Address: www.american.edu/cas/art-history.cfm

Unit's Primary Department: Art

Learning Outcome: Demonstrate ability to think critically and analytically about art works

First year MA students will demonstrate the ability to ask critical questions about the style, conception, artistic tradition, and possible interpretive strategies for works of art from varied periods within the Euro-American and East Asian cultural traditions.

Outcome Year: 2012-2013
Start Date: 08/30/2010
End Date: 05/01/2011
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic take-home assessment quiz will be given to first year graduate students in December of each year in ARTH 500. Approaches to Art History. Quiz will demonstrate extent to which students are able to meet the stated program outcome goals with a 5 point scale.</td>
<td>MA students should be able to pass this exam with 100% high proficiency or intermediate proficiency after their first semester.</td>
<td>The cycle will be every fall at the end of the semester, beginning in fall 2010. The diagnostic exam will be evaluated by the course instructor and one other Art History faculty member.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two readers will grade the quizzes, assigning each section a 1-5 score (1--minimal evidence of the outcome being met; 5--full evidence of the outcome being met)
This process will allow us to identify potential weaknesses and enable us to make curricular adjustments as necessary in order to meet final MA program goals.

Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam

Related Courses
- ARTH-500 - Approaches to Art History

Learning Outcome: Ability to recognize and understand methodological systems used in Art Historical scholarship

By end of first semester, first year MA students will be able to recognize and demonstrate understanding of major methodologies used in art historical writing including formalism, iconology and iconography, social history, Marxism, feminism, and post-colonialism as well as reception theory and psychoanalysis.

Outcome Year: 2012-2013
Start Date: 08/30/2010
End Date: 05/05/2014
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

10/23/2013 12:18 PM Generated by TracDat a product of Nuventive. Page 1 of 3
### Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First year MA students must all take ARTH 500 Approaches to Art History in their first fall semester in the program. They will be given an exam at the end of the semester specifically evaluating their understanding of and ability to assess the various methodologies used in art historical research and scholarly writing. Two faculty members will read the papers and score them on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being full evidence of outcome accomplished. <strong>Measure Type:</strong> Quiz/ Exam</td>
<td>More than 80% of graduate students should score 4 or higher on this measure.</td>
<td>once/year</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcome: Ability to develop, shape, and complete research projects effectively**

First and second year graduate students will be able to: 1) identify appropriate research topics in a particular subject area, 2) develop appropriate questions to shape research project, 3) find appropriate research sources for project and when possible incorporate primary-source materials (original documents from historical period being investigated), 4) write papers using appropriate scholarly sources from books, articles, and web-based resources, 5) construct these papers demonstrating cogent argument, clear analysis of topics and sources, and articulate, grammatically correct language.

- **Outcome Year:** 2012-2013
- **Start Date:** 08/30/2010
- **End Date:** 05/01/2011
- **Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper: Evaluation of research papers prepared by graduate students for an upper-level Art History course in the spring semester of their first year. The research paper will be evaluated by two faculty members in art history using a rubric to rate proficiency in: locating and critically evaluating relevant primary sources and secondary literature, and the formulation of a cogent and critical thesis and argumentation utilizing these sources. <strong>Measure Type:</strong> Final Paper/ Final Project</td>
<td>90% of MA students will be able to demonstrate competence in listed skill areas. This evaluation process will allow us to pinpoint weaknesses in particular areas of student development, research skills, understanding scholarly databases, developing original interpretations, writing/ expressive skills.</td>
<td>The cycle will be every year, in the spring semester, beginning in 2012.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcome: Self-assessment by MA Students at end of first and second year**

Students demonstrate assessment of their own progress in program and also evaluate what aspects of teaching have been useful to them and what elements they feel would further assist them in becoming stronger thinkers, researchers, and writers.

- **Outcome Year:** 2012-2013
- **Start Date:** 08/28/2013
- **End Date:** 05/05/2014
- **Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student survey based on written questionnaire to be completed by first and second year MA students in spring semester. Survey covers self-assessment in relation to 1) art historical literacy; 2) critical thinking; 3) research skills and 4) written communication skills, all of which are essential to success in MA program. Student responses to survey will indicate areas in which they feel a need for further development in these essential skills. <strong>Measure Type:</strong> Survey</td>
<td>100% of MA students should score 4 or 5 in each category; if less than faculty can engage students to assist them in improving that area of their performance.</td>
<td>Survey will be given in spring semester every year.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Measure</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Schedule/Cycle</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students for past two years have filled out forms (3-page rubrics using check boxes, see documents) to self-assess in areas of art historical literacy, critical thinking, research skills, and communication skills.</td>
<td>To find out how students feel about skills program has sought to teach them and what worked well and what worked less well from student viewpoint.</td>
<td>Use of this learning outcome is not showing up from previous two cycles but documentation was done. Starting in 2013-14, this will be administered on annual cycle in spring semester.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure Type:</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>