Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: CAS: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies - BA

**Program Mission:** The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGSS) is an interdisciplinary program encompassing feminist studies, masculinity studies, and sexuality studies. The program is committed to a multicultural curriculum that sustains and integrates diverse perspectives. WGSS courses emphasize participatory education in which student involvement, critical thinking, and personal insight are encouraged and made relevant in the learning process.

**Contact Person for Assessment:** Lauren Weis

**Unit Website Address:** http://www.american.edu/cas/wgs/

**Unit's Primary Department:** Women/Gender

**Learning Outcome: Intersectional Analysis**

analyze how interlinked privileges and inequalities of gender and sexuality as well as race/ethnicity, social class, nationality, age and ability have shaped societies over time and continue to do so in the present.

- **Outcome Year:** 2012-2013
- **Start Date:** 05/23/2013
- **Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

### Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
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<td>On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) at least 80% of student majors and minors rate each learning outcome as 4 or higher.</td>
<td>Cycle is every spring semester. (year 1 and every subsequent year) An online questionnaire will be sent annually to students by e-mail and will be filled out and returned anonymously to a central location. At least two members of the program assessment committee will review the data collected with the survey and report the findings to the director. This is an indirect measure. It is crucial for our understanding of student perceptions of the program. We will send out this survey annually to gather data over time about student perceptions and to uncover emerging trends.</td>
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<td>Each of two readers will evaluate the projects for evidence of the relevant learning outcomes using a scale of 1 (minimal evidence of the outcome being met) to 5 (full evidence of the outcome being met). At least 80% of the projects will receive average scores of 4 or higher for each learning outcome.</td>
<td>Cycle will be once every 4 years, in the spring semester, beginning year 2. This is a fall course and the instructor will provide copies of projects to the program director at the beginning of the spring semester. The projects will be evaluated by two members of the assessment committee and they will report their findings to the director. This is a direct measure. This process will allow us to pinpoint weaknesses in particular areas of student development: in research skills, understanding scholarly debates, and/or</td>
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Evaluation of each WGSS student's final paper/final exam in WGSS 400, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Theory

**Measure Type:**
Written Assignment

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Each of two readers will evaluate the papers/exams for evidence of the general learning outcomes as well as specific learning outcomes relevant to theory using a scale of 1 (minimal evidence of the outcome being met) to 5 (full evidence of the outcome being met). At least 80% of the paper/exams will receive average scores of 4 or higher for each general learning outcome and each specific learning outcome.

The cycle will be once every 4 years, at the close of the spring semester, beginning year 3. This is a spring course, and the instructor will provide copies of final papers/exams to the program director at the end of the spring semester. The paper/exams will be evaluated by two members of the assessment committee and they will report their findings to the director. This is a direct measure. This process will allow us to identify where we are most and least successful in training our students about different theoretical approaches to the fields of women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

Yes

Evaluation of each WGSS student’s final paper/final exam in WGSS 400, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Theory

**Measure Type:**
Final Paper/ Final Project

Each of two readers will evaluate the papers/exams for evidence of the general learning outcomes as well as specific learning outcomes relevant to theory using a scale of 1 (minimal evidence of the outcome being met) to 5 (full evidence of the outcome being met). At least 80% of the paper/exams will receive average scores of 4 or higher for each general learning outcome and each specific learning outcome.

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Yes

Related Courses

- WGSS-300 - Feminist and Gender Theory
- WGSS-500 - Curr Issues & Research

Learning Outcome: Theory

explain various theoretical approaches to women's/gender/sexuality studies.

NB: Specific learning outcomes that take course content into account will be developed. Examples might include student's ability to:

1. analyze current events using feminist/gender theory;

10/28/2013 1:18 PM  Generated by TracDat a product of Nuventive.
2. analyze their own life experience using a feminist/gender framework; or
3. develop coherent critiques of existing theory.

**Outcome Year:** 2011-2012
2012-2013

**Start Date:** 08/27/2012

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

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**Measure Type:**
Survey

Evaluation of each student's senior capstone research project, prepared for WGSS 500, Current Issues and Research in Women's and Gender Studies. Since the capstone research seminar is inter-disciplinary, these projects take a wide variety of forms, from formal academic papers, to creative performances, to videos and websites, to physical installations akin to museum exhibits. All final projects must contain an evaluation of relevant scholarly literature as well as research in primary sources, and the development of an original interpretation of those sources.

**Measure Type:**
Final Paper/ Final Project

Each of two readers will evaluate the projects for evidence of the relevant learning outcomes using a scale of 1 (minimal evidence of the outcome being met) to 5 (full evidence of the outcome being met). At least 80% of the projects will receive average scores of 4 or higher for each learning outcome

Cycle will be once every 4 years, in the spring semester, beginning year 2. This is a fall course and the instructor will provide copies of projects to the program director at the beginning of the spring semester. The projects will be evaluated by two members of the assessment committee and they will report their findings to the director. This is a direct measure. This process will allow us to pinpoint weaknesses in particular areas of student development: in research skills, understanding scholarly debates, and/or developing original interpretations.

**Measure Type:**
Final Paper/ Final Project

Evaluation of each WGSS student's final project/paper/exam in WGSS 300, Feminist and Gender Theory

Each of two evaluators will assess the projects/papers/exams for evidence of the general learning outcomes as well as specific learning outcomes relevant to theory using a scale of 1 (minimal evidence of the outcome being met) to 5 (full evidence of the outcome being met). At least 80% of the paper/exams will

The cycle will be once every 4 years, at the close of the spring semester, beginning year 3. This is a spring course, and the instructor will provide copies of final papers/exams to the program director at the end of the spring semester. If the final project culminates in a presentation, the program director or other evaluator(s) will
receive average scores of 4 or higher for each general learning outcome and each specific learning outcome.

Target

Schedule/Cycle

Active

Student survey, based on written questionnaire asking for students’ perceptions of their abilities. Questionnaire will be forced-choice but will also allow for explanations of responses.

Measure Type:

Survey

On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) at least 80% of student majors and minors rate each learning outcome as 4 or higher

Cycle is every spring semester. (year 1 and every subsequent year) An online questionnaire will be sent annually to students by e-mail and will be filled out and returned anonymously to a central location. At least two members of the program assessment committee will review the data collected with the survey and report the findings to the director. This is an indirect measure. It is crucial for our understanding of student perceptions of the program. We will send out this survey annually to gather data over time about student perceptions and to uncover emerging trends.

Yes

Related Courses

- WGSS-300 - Feminist and Gender Theory

Learning Outcome: Application

apply these theoretical perspectives in settings beyond the classroom - in internships, programming, projects or activism.

NB: This involves the elements

1) We have been asking students to do a ‘site evaluation’ for many years. An evaluation for students measuring specific learning outcomes will be developed.

2) Since Spring 2010 we have had employers respond to a new online questionnaire to evaluate interns. We will revisit this instrument and revise in light of specific learning outcomes.

3) We will consider developing specific learning outcomes for the internship paper

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

2011-2012

2012-2013

Start Date: 08/23/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome
Three-pronged evaluation of each student's experience and performance in WGSS 491 Internship:

1. evaluation by student, based on internship questionnaire
2. evaluation by internship employer, based on questionnaire
3. evaluation of each student's final internship paper.

Questionnaires will be forced-choice but will also allow for explanations of responses.

**Measure Type:**
Field Work/Internship

**Schedule/Cycle:**
The cycle will be once every 4 years, at the close of both fall and spring semesters. An online questionnaire will be sent to student interns by e-mail and will be returned to the AU internship supervisor. In similar manner, an online questionnaire will be sent to employers by e-mail and returned (currently the AU Career Center sends and receives employer evaluations of interns). The AU internship supervisor will review the data collected with the surveys and report the findings to the director (although typically this is one and the same person). These are indirect measures.

The final paper will be evaluated by two members of the assessment committee and they will report their findings to the director. This is a direct measure.

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

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**Related Courses**
- WGSS-500 - Curr Issues & Research

**Learning Outcome: Research Sources**
locate appropriate research sources, both primary and secondary, in the field of women's/gender/sexuality studies.

**Outcome Year:**
- 2009-2010
- 2010-2011
- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013

**Start Date:** 08/23/2010

**Assessment Plan**

**Assessment Method:**
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**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

Related Courses
- WGSS-500 - Curr Issues & Research

Learning Outcome: Research Projects

develop effective research projects in the field of women's/gender/sexuality studies that are theoretically informed and methodologically sound.

**Outcome Year:**
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012
2012-2013

**Start Date:** 08/23/2010

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