

Program Assessment Plan
 American University
 Academic Program: CAS: American Studies - BA

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Contact Person for Katarina Vester, Director

Assessment:

Unit's Primary Department: Amer. Studies

Learning Outcome: Content Knowledge

Students will demonstrate mastery over the major issues, theories, and concepts within the field of American Studies, including traditional topics ("American dream," frontier, urbanization, multiculturalism) and cutting-edge themes (e.g. transnationalism, hybridity, diaspora, and globalization).

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
 2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Senior Capstone Seminar Evaluation of each student's end-of-term written essay, prepared for AMST-400 Interpreting American Culture:</p> <p>In this essay, students apply "issues, theories and concepts" examined during the seminar to the analysis of a specified category of cultural representation in specified sets of American cultural texts. In spring 2009, the category of cultural representation is sexuality and gender, and the cultural texts may include items from any three of the following: literature, film, television, music, fashion, photography, magazines.</p> <p>The "issues, theories, and concepts" used to analyze the representations of sexuality and gender in the selected texts must be drawn from at least two distinct academic disciplines, and one other social force (race, class, global circulation, etc.) must be addressed in this analysis.</p> <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>	<p>Two thirds or more of the papers will satisfy the expectation of each learning outcome with an aggregate score of 3.0 or better. The mean aggregate score for the student cohort is higher than the idealized (3.0) mean.</p>	<p>Every spring semester. When there is an AMST faculty member available who is not the instructor, the essays will be evaluated independently by the course instructor and the AMST faculty member at the close of the spring semester. Each reader will assign the portfolio a 1-5 score (1--minimal evidence that outcome has been met; 5--ample evidence that outcome has been met) for each indicated learning outcome. Reader scores will be averaged to obtain an aggregate scoring for each outcome.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>In AMST 400, students will evaluate their AMST learning experience in regard to the 5 learning outcomes (by questionnaire).</p> <p>This is a qualitative and narrative self-assessment, consisting of an anonymous questionnaire and a discussion with faculty. In the self-assessment students are asked to assess their own progress towards the learning outcomes and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program, and to suggest solutions.</p> <p>The results will give us a better understanding of how students experience the AMST program, whether they feel the program meets its stated learning outcomes. We also hope to gain new insights into whether they understand themselves as a cohort and whether they are satisfied with their learning experience.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>		<p>Every spring semester. By the AMST director, shared with faculty. The results are discussed and problems addressed by the AMST Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Related Courses

- AMST-400 - Interpreting American Culture
- AMST-491 - Internship

Learning Outcome: Textual Analysis

To apply AMST-related issues, theories and concepts to the analysis of a wide range of texts.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Senior Capstone Seminar Evaluation of each student's end-of-term written essay, prepared for AMST-400 Interpreting American Culture:</p> <p>In this essay, students apply "issues, theories and concepts" examined during the seminar to the analysis of a specified category of cultural representation in specified sets of American cultural texts. In spring 2009, the category of cultural representation is sexuality and gender, and the cultural texts may include items from any three of the following: literature, film, television, music, fashion, photography, magazines.</p> <p>The "issues, theories, and concepts" used to analyze the representations of sexuality and gender in the selected texts must be drawn from at least two distinct academic disciplines, and one other social force (race, class, global circulation, etc.) must be addressed in this analysis.</p> <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>	<p>Two thirds or more of the papers will satisfy the expectation of each learning outcome with an aggregate score of 3.0 or better. The mean aggregate score for the student cohort is higher than the idealized (3.0) mean.</p>	<p>Every spring semester. When there is an AMST faculty member available who is not the instructor, the essays will be evaluated independently by the course instructor and the AMST faculty member at the close of the spring semester. Each reader will assign the portfolio a 1-5 score (1--minimal evidence that outcome has been met; 5--ample evidence that outcome has been met) for this learning outcome. Reader scores will be averaged to obtain an aggregate scoring for this outcome.</p>	Yes
<p>In AMST 400, students will evaluate their AMST learning experience in regard to the 5 learning outcomes (by questionnaire) including the outcome on application of AMST issues to analyzing texts.</p> <p>This is a qualitative and narrative self-assessment, consisting of an anonymous questionnaire and a discussion with faculty. In the self-assessment students are asked to assess their own progress towards this learning outcome and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program, and to suggest solutions.</p> <p>The results will give us a better understanding of how students experience the AMST program, whether they feel the program meets its stated learning outcomes. We also hope to gain new insights into whether they understand themselves as a cohort and whether they are satisfied with their learning experience.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>		<p>Every spring semester. By the AMST director, shared with faculty. The results are discussed and problems addressed by the AMST Advisory Board.</p>	Yes

Related Courses

- AMST-400 - Interpreting American Culture

Learning Outcome: Research

To develop effective research arguments, based on the analysis of texts, whose findings are summarized in effectively written academic papers or in effectively organized oral and visual presentations.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Senior Capstone Seminar Evaluation of each student's end-of-term written essay, prepared for AMST-400 Interpreting American Culture:</p> <p>In this essay, students apply "issues, theories and concepts" examined during the seminar to the analysis of a specified category of cultural representation in specified sets of American cultural texts. In spring 2009, the category of cultural representation was sexuality and gender, and the cultural texts may include items from any three of the following: literature, film, television, music, fashion, photography, magazines.</p> <p>The "issues, theories, and concepts" used to analyze the representations of sexuality and gender in the selected texts must be drawn from at least two distinct academic disciplines, and one other social force (race, class, global circulation, etc.) must be addressed in this analysis.</p> <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>	<p>Two thirds or more of the papers will satisfy the expectation of each learning outcome with an aggregate score of 3.0 or better. The mean aggregate score for the student cohort is higher than the idealized (3.0) mean.</p>	<p>Every spring semester. When there is an AMST faculty member available who is not the instructor, the essays will be evaluated independently by the course instructor and the AMST faculty member at the close of the spring semester. Each reader will assign the portfolio a 1-5 score (1--minimal evidence that outcome has been met; 5--ample evidence that outcome has been met) for this learning outcome. Reader scores will be averaged to obtain an aggregate scoring for the research outcome.</p>	Yes
<p>In AMST 400, students will evaluate their AMST learning experience in regard to the 5 learning outcomes (by questionnaire) including the research outcome. This is a qualitative and narrative self-assessment, consisting of an anonymous questionnaire and a discussion with faculty. In the self-assessment students are asked to assess their own progress towards the learning outcomes and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program, and to suggest solutions.</p> <p>The results will give us a better understanding of how students experience the AMST program, whether they feel the program meets its stated learning outcomes. We also hope to gain new insights into whether they understand themselves as a cohort and whether they are satisfied with their learning experience.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>		<p>Every spring semester. By the AMST director, shared with faculty. The results are discussed and problems addressed by the AMST Advisory Board.</p>	Yes

Related Courses

- AMST-400 - Interpreting American Culture

Learning Outcome: Extramural Work

To explore the broad extramural opportunities available to American Studies students through participation in internship placements, study abroad programs, and other practical experiences.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>All AMST students who participate in either AMST 491 (AMST internship) or in AU's service learning program are asked to self-assess their experience in a brief essay and to connect it to their studies.</p> <p>With this measure, we expect to gain insight into how well students feel motivated and supported by the AMST program to act in a socially responsible way.</p> <p>This is a qualitative assessment in which students evaluate their internship and the support and preparation they have received</p>	<p>No target identified. We need to see the overall profile of student scores for each learning outcome, before making further statements about the outcomes being met.</p>	<p>Every semester in which AMST students take AMST 491 or participate in service-learning advised by AMST faculty.</p>	Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>from the AMST program, as well as the academic tasks that accompany AMST internships. Feedback will be used to improve students' experience.</p> <p>Measure Type: Field Work/ Internship</p>			

Related Courses

- AMST-491 - Internship

Learning Outcome: Social Responsibility

To think and act, as American Studies Scholars, in the interest of social responsibility.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Senior Capstone Seminar Evaluation of each student's end-of-term written essay, prepared for AMST-400 Interpreting American Culture:</p> <p>In this essay, students apply "issues, theories and concepts" examined during the seminar to the analysis of a specified category of cultural representation in specified sets of American cultural texts. In spring 2009, the category of cultural representation was sexuality and gender, and the cultural texts included items from any three of the following: literature, film, television, music, fashion, photography, magazines.</p> <p>The "issues, theories, and concepts" used to analyze the representations of sexuality and gender in the selected texts had to be drawn from at least two distinct academic disciplines, and one other social force (race, class, global circulation, etc.) must be addressed in this analysis.</p> <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>	<p>Two thirds or more of the papers will satisfy the expectation of each learning outcome with an aggregate score of 3.0 or better. The mean aggregate score for the student cohort is higher than the idealized (3.0) mean.</p>	<p>Every spring semester. When there is an AMST faculty member available who is not the instructor, the essays will be evaluated independently by the course instructor and the AMST faculty member at the close of the spring semester. Each reader will assign the portfolio a 1-5 score (1--minimal evidence that outcome has been met; 5--ample evidence that outcome has been met) for each indicated learning outcome. Reader scores will be averaged to obtain an aggregate scoring for each outcome.</p>	Yes
<p>In AMST 400, students will evaluate their AMST learning experience in regard to the 5 learning outcomes (by questionnaire).</p> <p>This is a qualitative and narrative self-assessment, consisting of an anonymous questionnaire and a discussion with faculty. In the self-assessment students are asked to assess their own progress towards the learning outcomes and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program, and to suggest solutions.</p> <p>The results will give us a better understanding of how students experience the AMST program, whether they feel the program meets its stated learning outcomes. We also hope to gain new insights into whether they understand themselves as a cohort and whether they are satisfied with their learning experience.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>		<p>Every spring semester. By the AMST director, shared with faculty. The results are discussed and problems addressed by the AMST Advisory Board.</p>	Yes

Assessment Plan

Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>All AMST students who participate in either AMST 491 (AMST internship) or in AU's service learning program are asked to self-assess their experience in a brief essay and to connect it to their studies.</p> <p>With this measure, we expect to gain insight into how well students feel motivated and supported by the AMST program to act in a socially responsible way.</p> <p>This is a qualitative assessment in which students evaluate their internship and the support and preparation they have received from the AMST program, as well as the academic tasks that accompany AMST internships. Feedback will be used to improve students' experience.</p> <p>Since this is the first year we will carry out this assessment, we need to see the overall profile of student scores for each learning outcome, before making further statements about the outcomes being met.</p> <p>Measure Type: Field Work/ Internship</p>	No target identified.	Every semester in which AMST students take AMST 491 or participate in service-learning advised by AMST faculty.	Yes

Related Courses

- AMST-491 - Internship