

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

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Contact Person for Lisa Leff

Assessment:

Unit Website Address: <http://www.american.edu/cas/history/>

Unit's Primary Department: History

Learning Outcome: Historical Literacy

Students will gain an understanding of the scope, breadth and richness of historical studies.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2011

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

| Assessment Plan | | | |
|--|--|--|--------|
| Assessment Measure | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Indirect: Student Survey. Students in the course "Major Seminar" will fill out a survey in which they assess what they have learned over the course of their history studies at AU Measure Type: Survey | 80% of students will deem themselves to have "met expectations" in the area of "Historical Literacy" | Annually. Survey administered in Major seminar course at the end of spring semester. Reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October. | Yes |
| Curriculum of courses offered over a two year cycle will be reviewed to ensure that sufficient topical, chronological and geographical breadth is available to all students during a typical program of study Measure Type: Focus Group | Consensus reached between Chair and Undergraduate Director | Every other October, in meeting between Chair and Undergraduate Director | Yes |
| Direct: One-time review by History Council of distribution requirements for major to ensure that all students had opportunity to meet this learning objective. Measure Type: Focus Group | No target identified. | One time, October 27, 2010, History Council. We will return to this in 2014 once new distribution requirements are in place and a group of students has had the opportunity to go through our major with the new requirements in place. History Council will be responsible for re-assessing this Learning Outcome. | No |

Learning Outcome: Critical Thinking

Students will learn to apply historical methods to evaluate critically the record of the past and how historians and others have interpreted it.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2011

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

| Assessment Plan | | | |
|--|--|--|--------|
| Assessment Measure | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Direct: Major seminar faculty survey. Faculty teaching the year-long major seminar course will complete a survey assessing students' work in their sections of the course. Measure Type: | 70% of students will be deemed to have "met expectations" or better in the area of "Critical thinking" | Annually. Major seminar professors will complete the surveys each spring, one on each student. Undergraduate | Yes |

| Assessment Plan | | | |
|---|--|--|--------|
| Assessment Measure | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Survey | | committee will review survey data every October. | |
| Indirect: Student survey. Measure Type: Survey | 80% of students will deem themselves to have "Met expectations" or better in the area of critical thinking | Annually. Students will complete the surveys each spring, on the last day of class. Undergraduate committee will review survey data every October. | Yes |

Learning Outcome: Research Skills

Students will acquire basic historical research skills, including (as appropriate) the effective use of libraries, archives, and databases.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2011

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

| Assessment Plan | | | |
|--|--|--|--------|
| Assessment Measure | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Direct: major seminar faculty survey. Professors will complete one survey per student assessing their performance in the class. Measure Type: Survey | 70% of students will be deemed to have "Met expectations" or better in the area of "research skills" | Annually, each spring; reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October. | Yes |
| Indirect: Student Survey. Students enrolled in Major seminar will complete a survey each spring, on the last day of class, in which they assess their own learning in the major. Measure Type: Survey | 80% of students will deem themselves to have "met expectations" or better in the area of "research skills" | Annually, on the last day of class, reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October. | Yes |

Learning Outcome: Communication Skills

Students will learn to organize and express their thoughts clearly and coherently both in writing and orally.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2011

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

| Assessment Plan | | | |
|--|---|--|--------|
| Assessment Measure | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Direct: Faculty and graduate student assessment of student paper and presentation at "History day", through filling out an evaluation form on each paper/presentation. Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project | 70% of students will be deemed to have "met expectations" or better in the area of "communication skills" | Annually, commentators will evaluate presentations/papers at history day each spring; reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October. | Yes |
| Indirect: Student Survey. Measure Type: Survey | 80% of students will deem themselves to have "Met expectations" or better in the area of "communication skills" | Annually, at end of spring semester in Major Seminar; reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October. | Yes |

Learning Outcome: Writing and Intellectual Integration

Students should demonstrate their mastery of the knowledge and skills involved in historical practice by conceptualizing and executing a significant piece of original research.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

| Assessment Plan | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| Assessment Measure | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Major Seminar faculty Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project | 70% of students will be deemed to have "met expectations" or better on their final paper in Major Seminar | Annually; reported on major seminar faculty survey; reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October | Yes |
| Direct: Faculty and graduate student commentator assessment of student papers they read at history day Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project | 70% of students will be deemed to have "met expectations" or better in the area of "Writing and Intellectual Integration" | Annually, filled out at History day in spring, reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October. | Yes |
| Indirect: Student Survey. Measure Type: Survey | 80% of students will deem themselves to have "met expectations" or better in the area of "writing and Intellectual Integration" on the survey they complete at the end of Major Seminar in the spring. | Survey completed annually, reviewed by Undergraduate Committee every October. | Yes |