

Program Assessment Plan  
American University  
Academic Program: CAS: Literature - MA

**Academic Program: CAS: Literature - MA**

**Contact Person for** Anita Gilman Sherman

**Assessment:**

**Unit's Primary Department:** Literature

**COLA Reader -1:** Daniel Kerr

**COLA Reader -2:** Kathy McAdams

**Learning Outcome: Content Knowledge**

Students will be able to demonstrate broad knowledge of literary genres and periods.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011

**Start Date:** 11/19/2010

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
All comprehensive examinations will be evaluated for students' knowledge of genres and periods. Graduate faculty Assessment report to be included in Annual Department Report. <b>Measure Type:</b> Quiz/ Exam	Most exams will pass.	Every year.	Yes
If we are providing students with these skills, it follows that they will qualify for admission to strong PhD programs and jobs. We will follow up with students after they graduate to see where they are accepted for PhD programs, and where they are employed after graduation. MA Director will track graduates of the program and note in particular the graduate programs and jobs they attain. The program has created a Facebook page for the program better to communicate with our graduates. <b>Measure Type:</b> Alumni Feedback	No target identified.	Continuous evaluation by MA Director.	Yes
Professors will examine comprehensive exams and rate them as "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory" or with "distinction." <b>Measure Type:</b> Final Paper/ Final Project	Over half of the papers that are examined should be judged outstanding (distinction) by the evaluators.		Yes

**Related Action Steps**

\* Supporting Assessment: In 2012, 4 MA alumni received fellowships for doctoral programs at Princeton, Santa Cruz, Kansas, Ne

**Description:** All comprehensive examinations will be evaluated for students' knowledge of genres and periods. Syllabi for courses in which graduate students are enrolled will be reviewed to make sure that breadth is being taught.  
Meetings with instructors of all graduate courses to discuss the extent to which faculty think these goals have been achieved.  
If we are providing students with these skills, it follows that they will qualify for admission to strong PhD programs and jobs. We will follow up with students after they graduate to see where they are accepted for PhD programs, and where they are employed after graduation.

**Learning Outcome: Critical Analysis**

Students will be able to deploy skills of critical analysis:  
 Formulating a rich and nuanced argument;  
 Critical thinking;  
 Ability to close read a text;  
 Ability to connect their understanding to a theoretical position.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011

**Start Date:** 11/19/2010

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
All comprehensive examinations will be evaluated for students' knowledge of genres and periods. Graduate faculty Assessment report to be included in Annual Department Report. <b>Measure Type:</b> Quiz/ Exam	Most exams will pass.	Every year.	Yes
If we are providing students with these skills, it follows that they will qualify for admission to strong PhD programs and jobs. We will follow up with students after they graduate to see where they are accepted for PhD programs, and where they are employed after graduation. MA Director will track graduates of the program and note in particular the graduate programs and jobs they attain. The program has created a Facebook page for the program better to communicate with our graduates. <b>Measure Type:</b> Alumni Feedback	No target identified.	Continuous evaluation by MA Director.	Yes

**Related Action Steps**

\* Supporting Assessment: The passing rate on the comp exam; juried competition for Graduate Essay prizes;

**Description:** Members of the faculty read a sampling of mentored scholarly essays and Master's theses to assess whether the learning outcomes are being achieved. They review the Comprehensive Exams as well.

**Learning Outcome: Scholarly Conversation**

Students will be able to situate their arguments within a scholarly conversation, commensurate with the track they are following in the program.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011

**Start Date:** 11/19/2010

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
If we are providing students with these skills, it follows that they will qualify for admission to strong PhD programs and jobs. We will follow up with students after they graduate to see where they are accepted for PhD programs, and where they are employed after graduation. MA Director will track graduates of the program and note in particular the graduate programs and jobs they attain. The program has created a Facebook page for the program better to communicate with our graduates. <b>Measure Type:</b> Alumni Feedback	No target identified.	Continuous evaluation by MA Director.	Yes

**Related Action Steps**

\* Supporting Assessment: Princeton, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, Illinois/Champagne-Urbana made of

**Description:** Syllabi will be examined to ensure that secondary criticism is incorporated into the work of the course and that all

500 and 600-level classes, as well as 700- level seminars include secondary reading. Mentored essays and theses will be sampled to make sure these goals are met. Faculty will meet to discuss the extent to which they think these goals have been achieved. If we are providing students with these skills, it follows that they will qualify for admission to strong PhD programs and jobs. We will follow up with students after they graduate to see where they are accepted for PhD programs, and where they are employed after graduation.