

#1. 2017 – 18 Undergraduate Program Assessment Plan

To be completed by Departments and submitted by the Department Chair to the BlackBoard Assessment Site.

Department/Program/Unit: History, Geography, Criminal Justice **Date:** 10/11/17

Related: University Goal/Outcome(more than one may be selected): Communication Knowledge Application Select

Members involved with development of Program Assessment Plan: Joel Helmer, John Hink, Jamie Hink, Tim Huntington, Tobin Beck

Departmental/Program/Unit Student Outcome: *What student outcome from the departmental matrix will be assessed? (It is suggested that you cut and paste directly from the matrix. Outcomes should represent the absolute priorities for learning- students must be able to do [this] when they finish our program). State as follows: Students should be able to [action verb] [something].*

The student outcome to be assessed is:

Students will be able to craft a paper which clearly states and supports a thesis, is appropriately structured, and uses correct grammar and proper citations.

Background: *What factors caused you to choose this particular assessment outcome? If you chose this outcome because of a perceived problem, please explain.*

Last year we focused more specifically on assisting students in developing strong thesis statements for their writing assignments. This led to many fruitful discussions about writing within our department which in turn has led us to implement teaching strategies that intentionally focus on improving writing skills. We are again going to assess whether students can clearly state and support a thesis.

Question: *What specific question(s) are you attempting to answer through assessing this student outcome? (What are you trying to find out? There may be more than one question, but no more than three.)*

Can students analyze information relating to a specific topic/thesis?

Methodology:

1. **OBJECT*** - *What data (i.e. artifact, exam score, detailed description of assignment) will be collected?* Research papers will be collected from PS 111: American Government and Hist 304: Modern Middle East.
 - a. *How does this data address the assessment question?* The expectation for these papers is for students to clearly state and support a thesis.
 - i. *Include/attach a description/example of assessment tool to be used.*
2. *How will data be collected?* Papers will be collected during spring 2018 and assessed using a rubric.

Analysis of Artifacts: *PERFORMANCE CRITERIA* - Discuss:*

- 1) *How the artifacts will be analyzed (attach rubrics/scoring tools if used):* Papers will be analyzed using the attached rubric.
- 2) *How you will know if it is good (i.e. score required by % of students):* Our goal is to have 80% of the students at the "Excellent" level for each category on the rubric.

Submitted by: Joel Helmer

Date: 10/11/17

Reviewed by the Assessment Committee (Date): 10/18/17

Department Chair notified of approval or additional action needed: na