

Degree: BA History
2023-2024 Assessment Report

Commented [JAR1]: Each academic program needs a minimum of 3 SLOs.

The assessment report as presented looks good (except for missing an SLO)

Degree: BA History 2023-2024 Assessment Report		
	Student Learning Outcome #1	History majors will create and execute effective oral presentations on historical research.
PLAN	Assessment Method(s)	<p>1. Presentations of Capstone students in HIST 4391 will be graded by the entire faculty according to the Central Message criterion of the Oral Presentation Value Rubric.</p> <p>2. Presentations of Capstone students in HIST 4391 will be graded by the entire faculty according to the Supporting Materials criterion of the Oral Presentation Value Rubric.</p>
	Proficiency	Proficiency is gauged according to a four-point rubric appropriate to the student learning outcome. Proficiency is defined as 3 out of 4 on the four-point rubric.
DO	Benchmark	<p>1. 75% of Capstone students will score at least 3 of 4 on the Central Message criterion of the Oral Presentation Value Rubric.</p> <p>2. 75% of Capstone students will score at least 3 of 4 on the Supporting Materials criterion of the Oral Presentation Value Rubric.</p>
	Results of Assessment	<p>1. In the Fall 2023 semester, 4 of 4 Capstone students in HIST 4391 achieved a score of at least 3 of 4 on the Central Message criterion (100%). In the Spring 2024 semester, 3 of 5 Capstone students in HIST 4391 achieved a score of at least 3 of 4 on the Central Message criterion (60%). Those who did not scored 2.67 and 2.86. Altogether, 7 of 9 Capstone students in HIST 4391 achieved a score of at least 3 of 4 on the Central Message criterion (77.8%).</p> <p>2. In the Fall 2023 semester, 4 of 4 Capstone students in HIST 4391 achieved a score of at least 3 of 4 on the Supporting Materials criterion (100%). In the Spring 2024</p>

		<p>semester, 2 of 5 Capstone students in HIST 4391 achieved a score of at least 3 of 4 on the Supporting Materials criterion (40%). Those who did not scored 2.67, 2.86, and 2.86. Altogether, 6 of 9 Capstone students in HIST 4391 achieved a score of at least 3 of 4 on the Supporting Materials criterion (67%).</p>
S T U D Y	Analysis of Results	<p>On the Central Message criterion, students slightly exceeded the benchmark target. On the Supporting Materials criterion, students fell short of the benchmark target. The small number of Capstone students makes each class member crucial for the data. Every single person must perform because, as the data reveal, just one student is the difference between making the benchmark or not.</p> <p>Overall, however, history majors' oral presentation skills are improving, from a 50% success rate in 2020-2021, to 62.5% in 2021-2022, to 66.7% in 2022-2023. The marks for 2023-2024 met or exceeded the highest of these figures, set last academic year. In fairness, the criteria the department tested in 2023-2024 were more focused than in the past, but the general trend is positive. Two changes implemented in 2023-2024 seem to be having beneficial effects. First and more directly, this past year saw the addition of in-class practice oral presentations to the Capstone course syllabi. Practice presentations allow for real-time critiques in advance of the formal oral presentation in front of faculty and guests. Second, the department expanded the role of the second reader in Capstone student papers, lending an additional layer of expertise behind student papers.</p>

ACT	Improvement Plan for 2024-2025	<p>Faculty became acquainted with Value rubrics just this past academic year, and as with anything else that is new, faculty did not necessarily grasp their full potential. Going forward, the rubrics will become a more central component of our history courses. Rather than merely having faculty use them during the evaluation phase of the course at the end of the semester, they will become a feature to use during instruction. Faculty teaching the Capstone course will share the Oral Presentation Value rubric with students, either as a handout, posted on Blackboard, or both, and carefully go over it in preparation for the mandatory oral presentations at the conclusion of the course. This will clarify faculty expectations of the students and provide clearer, standardized guidance for student preparation of oral presentations, regardless of the faculty member of record for the course.</p>
-----	--------------------------------	---

**Degree: BA History
2023-2024 Assessment Report**

	Student Learning Outcome #2	History majors will critically analyze historical evidence.
PLAN	Assessment Method(s)	<p>1. HIST 3390 Research Papers from the fall semester will be graded by the entire faculty according to the Critical Thinking Value Rubric.</p> <p>2. Five sample Document Based Question Assignments from each non-survey course will be graded by the entire faculty according to the Critical Thinking Value Rubric.</p>
	Proficiency	Proficiency is gauged according to five components, each evaluated according to a four-point rubric appropriate to the student learning outcome. Proficiency is defined as 15 out of 20 on the twenty-point rubric.
DO	Benchmark	<p>1. 75% of HIST 3390 papers from the fall semester will score at least 15 out of 20 on the Critical Thinking Value Rubric.</p> <p>2. 75% of the sample of Document Based Question assignments will score at least 15 out of 20 on the Critical Thinking Value Rubric.</p>
	Results of Assessment	<p>1. In the Fall 2023 semester, 0 of 10 HIST 3390 papers scored at least 15 out of 20 on the Critical Thinking Value Rubric (0%). The faculty's average score for student essays ranged from a low of 9 out of 20 to a high of 14.7 out of 20, with an average score of 12.4 out of 20.</p> <p>2. In the sample of Document Based Question assignments from the 2023-2024 academic year, 5 of 16 student essays scored at least 15 out of 20 on the Critical Thinking Value Rubric (31.25%). The faculty's average score for student essays ranged from a low of 10 out of 20 to a high of 17 out of 20, with an average score of 13.4 out of 20.</p>

S T U D Y	Analysis of Results	<p>The results here are abysmal. The average score of 12.4 out of 20 on the HIST 3390 papers translates to 62%, or barely above passing. The Document Based Question average is only somewhat higher, with the equivalent to a score of 67%. On a 100-point grading scale, these scores would be a letter grade of D. According to these figures, our history majors, as a rule, have not mastered the ability to critically analyze evidence and have a long way to go to meet our benchmarks. It is worth noting, though, that students are better at analyzing sets of documents given them by faculty than they are at making sense of the documents that they themselves have gathered to use in their own papers. They are in the process of developing a set of skills, but they are less successful in applying what they have learned independently. It is also possible, however, that the data is artificially discouraging. This was the first year of the expansion of the Document Based Question assignment to all history content courses, and faculty compliance was incomplete.</p>
----------------------------------	----------------------------	---

ACT	Improvement Plan for 2024-2025	<p>The department chair will continue to press for full compliance to assign a Document Based Question or equivalent project that incorporates the same skill set. The only way for students to improve upon their ability to critically analyze historical evidence is to critically analyze historical evidence. It takes a great deal of practice to learn how to think like a historian. It follows, then, that in addition to focusing on a single assignment, like a DBQ, it is imperative also to engage in critical thinking as a routine part of classroom instruction, by incorporating more historical documents to discuss daily in class. There is an opportunity here to encourage faculty to bring in archival materials from their own research to help expose students to historians' thought processes when evaluating documents and other sources. More practice in assessing evidence, along with a larger sample size, will provide more accurate and better results.</p>
------------	---------------------------------------	--