

Program: Humanities

Academic Program Assessment Plan (2017-2018)

1. Please review last year's assessment results (2016-2017) as well as the Academic Program Assessment Report with the faculty in your program. How does your program plan to take these results into consideration in future programmatic planning?

We have discussed putting more weight on methods courses in each of the programs within our unit and making sure that these courses speak specifically to the findings from last year's assessment report. Because the Humanities program is so small, and students typically pursue a major or minor in one of the disciplinary programs as well, we do not see the need to develop a specific 'Writing in the Humanities' course, though we did ask faculty teaching Humanities courses to be more explicit about the writing process in their course Learning Outcomes, assignments, and assessment.

2. Please review your program's Learning Outcomes. Do any of them need to be updated or clarified?

We clarified LO #2 last year. The others are sound.

- a. Please provide brief indications of the kinds of assessment (e.g. course exams, term papers, course projects, senior seminar, senior interview, etc.) that might be used to assess each outcome. (The purpose here is to see that your program has considered ways it might measure each outcome.)

1. Students will acquire an understanding of what it means to be human by studying and analyzing important works and ideas in literature, philosophy, language, and history.

- Assessment: direct: essays, blog posts, written reflections and discussion posts

2. Students will acquire essential life skills, including the ability to reflect critically on texts and artifacts, to recognize and appreciate nuance and complexity of meaning, and to express themselves in a clear, organized, and well-reasoned manner.

- Assessment: direct: essays, blog posts, podcasts, written reflections and discussion posts

3. Students will be transformed and given greater self-awareness by understanding the historical and cultural context for human values through the study of literature, philosophy, language, and history.

- Assessment: direct: essays, blog posts, written reflections, podcasts and discussion posts; indirect: survey

4. Study of the Humanities imparts a fundamental understanding of:

- the significance and chronology of major events and movements in World civilization.
 - i. Assessment: direct: essay, exams and multiple choice tests.
- a range of literature, representative of different literary forms and historical contexts.
 - i. Assessment: direct: essays, exams, discussion posts.
- the role of the humanities in identifying and clarifying individual and social values in a culture and understanding the implications of decisions made on the basis of those values.
 - i. Assessment: direct: essays, written reflections, podcasts, blog posts, discussion posts; indirect: surveys.

b. Please compare your Learning Outcomes to the University's main learning objectives. Which programmatic outcomes match university mission outcomes?

Learning Outcome #2: Students will acquire essential life skills, including the ability to reflect critically on texts and artifacts, to recognize and appreciate nuance and complexity of meaning, and to express themselves in a clear, organized, and well-reasoned manner.

3. Which outcome will you assess this year (2017-2018)?

Learning Outcome # 4: Study of the Humanities imparts a fundamental understanding of:

- the significance and chronology of major events and movements in World civilization.
- range of literature, representative of different literary forms and historical contexts.
- the role of the humanities in identifying and clarifying individual and social values in a culture and understanding the implications of decisions made on the basis of those values.

4. Which technique will you use to assess this outcome?

We will consider syllabi content from lower-level and upper-level syllabi in the Humanities program and gauge, based on course Learning Outcomes, content, assignments, and activities how well the courses reflect the three components of this Learning Outcome.

We will additionally solicit feedback from the course instructors on intent with respect to these aspects of their course design.

Finally, we will solicit student feedback on the degree to which each course developed the bullet-points under this Learning Outcome.

5. Which course or group of students will you assess on the outcome chosen above and when?

This Spring, we will assess Hum Stud 100: Living the Humanities, one of the Hum Stud Spring first-year seminars, Hum Stud 323: The Hebrew Bible, and Hum Stud 384: Topics in World Cultures. This will provide an array from 100-level to 400-level. Also, Hum Stud 384 is taught online, so we will be assessing both classroom based and online format courses.