

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

Bachelor of Arts in History

College: Arts and Sciences

Prepared by: Dr. James MacDonald

Date: May 18, 2020

Approved by: Francene J Lemoine

Date: June 13, 2020

Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, Student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Northwestern State University prepares its Students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.

College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. The College of Arts & Sciences, the largest college at Northwestern State University, is a diverse community of scholars, teachers, and students, working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College strives to produce graduates who are productive members of society equipped with the capability to promote economic and social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region. The College provides unequaled undergraduate education in the social and behavioral sciences, English, communication, journalism, media arts, biological and physical sciences, and the creative and performing arts, and at the graduate level in the creative and performing arts, English, TESOL, and Homeland Security. Uniquely, the College houses the Louisiana Scholars' College (the State's designated Honors College), the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the Creole Center, demonstrating its commitment to community service, research, and preservation of Louisiana's precious resources.

Department of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences. The Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences Department at Northwestern State University is dedicated to the development of students for roles in academic, leadership, professional, and research careers in the challenging fields of criminal justice, history, public safety, law, and public service. Utilizing transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research and service, the department produces graduates equipped to be productive members of society and a driving force in the economic development and improvement of the overall quality of life in the region. The department delivers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Criminal Justice and History and Bachelor of Science degrees in Unified Public Safety Administration with concentrations in Law Enforcement Administration, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Administration, Emergency Management Administration, and Public Facilities Management. Certificate programs in Pre-Law and Paralegal Studies and Public Policy and Administration are also available in addition to a Pre-law and Paralegal Studies concentration and minor. The department also delivers a Master of

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

Science degree in Homeland Security, and a Post-Master's certificate in Global Security and Intelligence.

History Program Mission Statement: The students who complete the History curriculum will have developed an understanding of contemporary events and ideas as they affect the locality, region, nation, and the world. Most particularly within the democratic environment of the United States, students will be prepared to fulfill their civic obligations as citizens. Students will be prepared for entry-level positions in any number of areas including teaching in public schools, business, industry, and government. In addition, they will be prepared for continued academic work in graduate programs.

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO 1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the complexities of historical development and resulting historical interpretations.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 1.1.

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 80% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper assignment.

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis: In AC 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of these results in 2018-2019 a new benchmark of 80% of students to earn a C or higher grade on the research paper assignment was instituted for AC 2019-2020. Instructors monitored student progress more closely and engaged in more proactive communication to address any obstacles and difficulties students may have be facing in the SST 1030 Seminar and HIST 3990 Capstone class. Additionally, the program generated and deployed rubrics for the targeted assignments in the designated courses for more precise and effective assessment. In addition – instructors of the HIST 3990 Capstone class employed more instructional video tutorials on all required class assignments. The same video tutorial aid was used to continue achieving success in the SST 1030 seminar. Tutorials focused on methods to comprehend and complete assignments along with resources available to each student. The department improved course delivery and provided additional links to students including sample assignments, databases, and research consultation information from reference librarians to improve student performance in the History

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

degree's research class.

As a result of these changes in AC 2019-2020 the target was met.

Decision: In AC 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The program, in keeping with the university goals of implementing QEP experiential learning will implement changes to the degree program beginning in AC 2020-2021. HIST 3000 will replace SST 1030 as a new junior level "Historian's Craft" class. HIST 4000 entitled "History Research Methods" will replace the senior capstone class HIST 3990.

These changes will improve the student's ability to understand the nature and methodology of history. Instructors will demonstrate to students how to master the process of historical research. Students will understand how historians think about and do history; specifically theoretical perspectives, practice, and the writing of history. The overall objective of the methods course is to provide students with the information, the skills, and the tools they will need to be active members of the history profession. Data collected from HIST 4000 will continue to push the cycle of improvement forward.

SLO 2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of major historical issues and their impact upon the US and the world.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

HIST 1010: Early World Civilization

HIST 1020: Modern World Civilization

HIST 2010: History of the United States to 1865

HIST 2020: History of the United States since 1865

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure: 2.1.

All history majors are required to take HIST 1010, 1020, 2010, and 2020, which provide an opportunity for students to acquire foundational knowledge and understanding of the major events and developments that have shaped the US and world history. **Beginning in Fall of 2017**, the program assessed foundational knowledge of major historical events through a capstone exam required of all students enrolled in History 3990 – required for graduation. 75% of students enrolled in each course will earn a composite grade of C (70%) or higher on each of the four sections of the capstone exam specifically related to

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

this measure.

Finding: Target was not met.

Analysis: In AC 2018-2019, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the results from AC 2018-2019, in AC 2019-2020 the faculty re-visited the capstone exams and review questions to ensure an absence of ambiguity or confusion. Underperforming exam sections were analyzed, with existing questions revised or replaced. Faculty believe the capstone exam represents an accurate measurement of the comprehensive knowledge students retain at the end of their time as a student. The exams also constitute an improved measurement versus accumulation of class grades.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was not met. Comparing numbers from AC 2018-2019 with AC 2019-2020 shows a marked improvement in student performance over five of the eight categories tested. In AC 2018-2019, four of eight capstone sections achieved the 75% of 70 or higher on each exam element. In AC 2019-2020 four of eight capstone sections achieved the 75% of 70 or higher on each exam element. The critical difference being that the average number of students achieving above 70% improved from 71% and 56% in the Fall and Spring semesters of 2018 and 2019 respectively to 85% and 70% in the Fall and Spring semesters of 2019 and 2020.

Decision: In AC 2019-2020 the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The faculty will redraft questions in underperforming sections of the capstone exam. Faculty members will consult and determine if content across different course sections is consistent and determine if any capstone questions require replacement. These changes will improve the students' ability to achieve mastery in several subfields of survey history in American and non-American disciplines thereby continuing to push the cycle of improvement forward.

Measure: 2.2.

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 80% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper assignment.

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis: In AC 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the results in AC 2018-2019 the department instituted a new benchmark of 80% of students to earn a C or higher grade on the research paper assignment for AC 2019-2020. Instructors monitored student progress more closely and engaged in more proactive communication

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

to address any obstacles and difficulties students may have be facing in the SST 1030 Seminar and HIST 3990 Capstone class. Additionally, the program generated and deployed rubrics for the targeted assignments in the designated courses for more precise and effective assessment. In addition – instructors of the HIST 3990 Capstone class employed more instructional video tutorials on all required class assignments. The same video tutorial aid is used to continue achieving success in the SST 1030 seminar.

As a result of these changes in AC 2019-2020 the target was met. Instructors established more contact with students who struggle in the class to improve goals set for the program. In addition, instructors developed video instruction/tutorials for each assignment due in class. Tutorials focused on methods to comprehend and complete assignments along with resources available to each student. The department improved course delivery and provided additional links to students including sample assignments, databases, and research consultation information from reference librarians to improve student performance in the History degree's research class.

Decision: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The program, in keeping with the university goals of implementing QEP experiential learning will implement changes to the degree program beginning in AC 2020-2021. HIST 3000 will replace SST 1030 as a new junior level "Historian's Craft" class. HIST 4000 entitled "History Research Methods" will replace the senior capstone class HIST 3990.

These changes will improve the student's ability to understand the nature and methodology of history. Instructors will demonstrate to students how to master the process of historical research. Students will understand how historians think about and do history; specifically theoretical perspectives, practice, and the writing of history. The overall objective of the methods course is to provide students with the information, the skills, and the tools they will need to be active members of the history profession. Data collected from HIST 4000 will continue to push the cycle of improvement forward.

SLO 3. Students will distinguish between historical knowledge and historical understanding.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

SST 1030: Social Sciences Seminar

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 3.1.

All history majors must take SST 1030 in the fall semester of their freshman year. Students enrolled in this course are required to distinguish between primary and

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

secondary sources and must complete written assignments based on their understanding of these kinds of historical texts. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C on the written exam which specifically assesses this SLO.

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis: In AC 2018-2019, the target was not met. During AC 2018-2019, only seven (7) students completed the assignment. In the Fall of 2019, the department instituted new measures to keep in touch with students about the necessity of completing assignments as well as linking examples of completed work to Moodle shells.

Based on the analysis of the results from AC 2018-2019 and to drive improvement in student learning in AC 2019-2020, the instructor made both video tutorials and examples of completed assignments available to students. The SST 1030 class constitutes the prerequisite for HIST 3990, the Capstone research class. More effort has been initiated to establish connectivity between the two seminars in the History degree.

As a result of these changes in AC 2019-2020 the target was met. Seventy-seven percent (77%) achieved the target.

Decision: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The department will reorganize the curriculum in order to comply with the QEP experiential learning requirements. One change will replace the SST 1030 class with HIST 3000. HIST 3000 will be moved to the third year of study in order for students to complete 4 of the intro History classes which will improve students' ability to successfully complete written assignments required in the two-part capstone class.

Measure 3.2. *This measure was deleted from assessment in AY 2017-2018 as it was found to be duplicative of measure 2.2.*

SLO 4. Select and apply appropriate research methods and analytical skills.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

SST 1030: Social Sciences Seminar

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 4.1.

All history majors must take SST 1030 in the fall semester of their freshman year. Students enrolled in this course are required to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and must complete an archival assignment based on their

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

understanding of these kinds of historical texts. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the assignment.

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis: In AC 2018-2019, the target was not met. During AC 2018-2019, only seven (7) students completed the assignment. In the Fall of 2019, the department instituted new measures to keep in touch with students about the necessity of completing assignments as well as linking examples of completed work to Moodle shells.

Based on the analysis of the results from AC 2018-2019 and to drive improvement in student learning in AC 2019-2020, the instructor made both video tutorials and examples of completed assignments available to students.

As a result of these changes in AC 2019-2020 the target was met. Seventy-seven percent (77%) achieved the target.

Decision: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The department will reorganize the curriculum in order to comply with the QEP experiential learning requirements. SST 1030 will be replaced with HIST 3000. HIST 3000 will be moved to the third year of study in order for students to complete 4 of the introductory History classes which will improve students' ability to successfully complete written assignments required in the two-part capstone class.

SLO 5. Students will demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

SST 1030: Social Sciences Seminar

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 5.1.

Students enrolled in SST 1030 must complete a Thesis and Citation assignment that directly assesses this SLO. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or higher on the assignment

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis: In AC 2018-2019 the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the results from AC 2018-2019, and to drive improvement in student learning in AC 2019-2020, the focus of HIST 3990 was redesigned to improve thesis development and correct citation of credible sources. As a result of these changes in AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of students achieved the target.

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

Decision: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. In Fall of 2020, the department will reorganize the curriculum in order to comply with the QEP experiential learning requirements. The SST 1030 class will be replaced with HIST 3000. HIST 3000 will be moved to the third year of study in order for students to complete 4 of the intro History classes.

Measure 5.2.

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 80% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper assignment.

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis: In AC 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of these results in AC 2018-2019, faculty instituted a new benchmark of 80% of students to earn a C or higher grade on the research paper assignment for AC 2019-2020. Instructors monitored student progress more closely and engaged in more proactive communication. Additionally, the program generated and deployed rubrics for the targeted assignments in the designated courses for more precise and effective assessment. In addition, instructors of the HIST 3990 Capstone class employed more instructional video tutorials on all required class assignments. The same video tutorial aid is used to continue achieving success in the SST 1030 seminar.

As a result of these changes in AC 2019-2020 the target was met.

Decision: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The program, in keeping with the university goals of implementing QEP experiential learning implemented changes to the degree program beginning in AC 2020-2021. HIST 3000 will replace SST 1030 as a new junior level “Historian’s Craft” class. HIST 4000 entitled “History Research Methods” will replace the senior capstone class HIST 3990.

These changes will improve the student’s ability to understand the nature and methodology of history. Instructors will demonstrate to students how to master the process of historical research. Students will understand how historians think about and do history; specifically theoretical perspectives, practice, and the writing of history. The overall objective of the methods course is to provide students with the information, the

AC 2019-2020 Assessment

skills, and the tools they will need to be active members of the history profession. Data collected from HIST 4000 will continue to push the cycle of improvement forward.

Comprehensive Summary of key evidence of improvements based on analysis of results:

Based on an analysis of the AC 2018-2019 data, the following changes were implemented in AC 2019-2020:

- The faculty redrafted questions in underperforming sections of the capstone exam.
- Faculty members consulted and determined which content across different course sections is consistent and determined if any capstone questions required replacement.
- The department implemented assignment rubrics helped facilitate expectations for assignments and increased the department goals for student success.
- The department made deliberate efforts to increase student contact hours to provide spontaneous support to student learning.

Plan of Action Moving Forward:

- The program, in keeping with the university goals of implementing QEP experiential learning will implement changes to the degree program beginning in academic year 2020-2021.
- HIST 3000 will replace SST 1030 as a new junior level “Historian’s Craft” class.
- Faculty will review and revise questions on the capstone exam.
- HIST 4000 entitled “History Research Methods” will replace the senior capstone class HIST 3990.
- HIST 3000 will be moved to the third year of study in order for students to complete 4 of the intro History classes
- The department has developed a curriculum change whereby the SST 1030 will serve as the prerequisite for Hist 3990, the Capstone research class and, as such, it will serve as the introduction to the methods historians use in their craft