

AY 2020-2021 Assessment

Bachelor of Arts in History (261)

College: Arts and Sciences

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Date: June 1, 2021

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Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution committed to acquiring, creating, and disseminating knowledge through innovative teaching, research, and service. With its certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, Northwestern State University prepares its increasingly diverse student population to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving our region, state, and nation.

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 unequalled 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

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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 4000 (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. Eighty percent (80%) of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper assignment.

Finding: Target met.

Analysis: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty implemented 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 academic year 2020-2021. HIST 3000 replaced SST 1030 as a new junior level "Historian's Craft" class. HIST 4000 entitled "History Research Methods" replaced the senior capstone class HIST 3990.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021, the target was met. Eighty-three percent (20/24) of students earned a C or better.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2021-2022 to drive the cycle of improvement. Students in HIST 4000 will be required to conduct a research

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consultation with NSU Watson Library staff as part of the requirements for the class. In addition, each student will be assigned a “faculty mentor” in the department who will engage in regular face to face or virtual meetings to discuss the ongoing research and writing process during the course of the semester. The mentoring process will help ensure continued achievement of the department’s benchmark as well as ensuring a higher completer rate for each cohort of the Capstone class.

Changes for the HIST 4000 class 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. Seventy-five percent (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 this measure.

Finding: Target met.

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Analysis: In AC 2019-2020, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, the faculty implemented the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The faculty redrafted questions in underperforming sections of the capstone exam. Faculty members consulted and determined if content across different course sections is consistent and determined if any capstone questions require replacement.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021, the target was met. Ninety-two percent (22/24) of students achieved the target in Part One, ninety-six percent (23/24) of students achieved the target in Part Two, eighty-eight percent (21/24) of students achieved the target in Part Three, and seventy-five percent (18/24) of students achieved the target in Part Four.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results, the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2021-2022 to drive the cycle of improvement. The faculty will amend questions in current underperforming sections of the capstone exam. Faculty members will replace redundant or extraneous questions in the capstone exam to streamline the studying process.

Measure: 2.2.

Students enrolled in HIST 4000 (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. Eighty percent (80%) of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper assignment.

Finding: Target met.

Analysis: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results the faculty implemented 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 academic year 2020-2021. HIST 3000 replaced SST 1030 as a new junior level "Historian's Craft" class. HIST 4000 entitled "History Research Methods" replaced the senior capstone class HIST 3990.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021 the target was met. Eighty-three percent (20/24) of students earned a C or better.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2021-2022 to drive the cycle of improvement. Students in HIST 4000 will be required to conduct a research

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consultation with NSU Watson Library staff as part of the requirements for the class. In addition, each student will be assigned a “faculty mentor” in the department who will engage in regular face to face or virtual meetings to discuss the ongoing research and writing process during the course of the semester. The mentoring process will help ensure continued achievement of the department’s benchmark as well as ensuring a higher completion rate for each cohort of the Capstone class.

Changes for the HIST 4000 class 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.

HIST 3000: The Historian’s Craft

HIST 4000: Historical Research Methods

Measure 3.1.

All history majors must take HIST 3000 after completing four (4) required intro history classes. Students enrolled in this course are required to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and must complete written assignments based on their understanding of these kinds of historical texts. Seventy-five percent (75%) of students enrolled will earn a grade of C on the written exam which specifically assesses this SLO.

Finding: Target not met.

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

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021, the target was not met. Sixty percent

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(9/15) of students earned a C or better.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2021-2022 to drive the cycle of improvement. The instructor will add a new text that focuses on citation and annotation methods as an introduction to the research and writing process. The new style guide textbook will be part of a re-tooled class which spends an entire five-week module on citation and archival assignments along with reading and writing specifically geared to the history degree.

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

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

HIST 3000: The Historian's Craft

HIST 4000: History Research Methods

Measure 4.1.

All history majors must take HIST 3000 after completing four (4) required intro history classes. Students enrolled in this course are required to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and must complete an archival assignment based on their understanding of these kinds of historical texts. Seventy-five percent (75%) of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the assignment.

Finding: Target not met.

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

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021, the target was not met. Sixty percent (9/15) of students earned a C or better.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021 the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2021-2022 to drive the cycle of improvement. The instructor will add a new text that focuses on citation and annotation methods as an introduction to the research and writing process. The new style guide textbook will be part of a re-tooled class which spends an entire five-week

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module on citation and archival assignments along with reading and writing specifically geared to the history degree.

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

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

HIST 3000: The Historian's Craft

HIST 4000: History Research Methods

Measure 5.1.

Students enrolled in HIST 3000 must complete a Thesis and Citation assignment that directly assesses this SLO. Seventy-five percent (75%) of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or higher on the assignment.

Finding: Target met.

Analysis: In AC 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results the faculty implemented the following changes in AC 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. In Fall of 2020, the department reorganized 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 has been moved to the third year of study in order for students to complete 4 of the intro History classes.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021 the target was met. One hundred percent (13/13) of students earned a C or better.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results the faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2021-2022 to drive the cycle of improvement. The instructor will add a new text that focuses on citation and annotation methods as an introduction to the research and writing process. The new style guide textbook will be part of a re-tooled class which spends an entire five-week module on citation and archival assignments along with reading and writing specifically geared to the history degree.

Measure 5.2.

Students enrolled in HIST 4000 (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.

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Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. Eighty percent (80%) of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper assignment.

Finding: Target met.

Analysis: In AC 2019-2020, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results the faculty implemented 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 academic year 2020-2021. HIST 3000 replaced SST 1030 as a new junior level “Historian’s Craft” class. HIST 4000 entitled “History Research Methods” replaced the senior capstone class HIST 3990.

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Decision: In AC 2020-2021 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2021-2022 to drive the cycle of improvement. Students in HIST 4000 will be required to conduct a research consultation with NSU Watson Library staff as part of the requirements for the class. In addition, each student will be assigned a “faculty mentor” in the department who will engage in regular face to face or virtual meetings to discuss the ongoing research and writing process during the course of the semester. The mentoring process will help ensure continued achievement of the department’s benchmark as well as ensuring a higher completer rate for each cohort of the Capstone class.

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

Based on an analysis of the 2019-2020 data, the following changes were implemented in 2020-2021:

- HIST 3000 replaced SST 1030 as a new junior level “Historian’s Craft” class.

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- HIST 4000 entitled “History Research Methods” replaced the senior capstone class HIST 3990.
- The faculty redrafted questions in underperforming sections of the capstone exam.
- Faculty members consulted and determined if content across different course sections is consistent and determined if any capstone questions require replacement.
- SST 1030 class was replaced with HIST 3000. HIST 3000 has been moved to the third year of study in order for students to complete 4 of the intro History classes.

Plan of Action Moving Forward:

The department continues to more clearly evaluate student performance with the implementation of the following during AC 2021-2022

- Students in HIST 4000 will be required to conduct a research consultation with NSU Watson Library staff as part of the requirements for the class.
- Each student will be assigned a “faculty mentor” in the department who will engage in regular face to face or virtual meetings to discuss the ongoing research and writing process during the course of the semester.
- The faculty will amend questions in current underperforming sections of the capstone exam.
- Faculty members will replace redundant or extraneous questions in the capstone exam to streamline the studying process.
- The instructor will add a new text that focuses on citation and annotation methods as an introduction to the research and writing process.