Department: Liberal Studies

Assessment Coordinators: Scott Pearce/Holly Folk

Departmental Mission: The WWU Liberal Studies Department serves the university and the larger community by supporting and sustaining excellent interdisciplinary teaching, learning, and scholarship in the humanities. To our students we impart knowledge of the world’s key canons and of the power of the book, together with an ability rigorously and critically to explore, contextualize and analyze texts of various types. From our program come broad-minded and well-educated citizens, able and willing effectively to take on a variety of undertakings that serve the needs of the people of Washington and the larger world.

Departmental Student Learning Outcomes: Upon graduation, Liberal Studies Humanities majors will have:

1. engaged texts of disparate origin and kind through close reading, and with a critical eye;
2. mastered multiple methods of inquiry used in the humanities disciplines;
3. developed written and oral communication skills;
4. acquired substantial knowledge of different worlds of thought and belief around the globe with a sensitivity to comparative dimensions;
5. come to see the need to contextualize books, works of art and other cultural artifacts within the worlds that gave them birth, and to see their influence over social, political and religious dynamics;
6. gained an appreciation of a range of manifestations of cross-cultural contact and exchanges across human history;
7. employed cognitive, analytical and communication skills which will be of use in many fields and professions beyond the university;
8. become knowledgeable and effective citizens of Washington and the larger world.

GUR (liberal arts & sciences) Student Learning Outcomes

9. analyze and communicate ideas effectively in oral, written, and visual forms
10. analyze and interpret information from varied sources, including print and visual media
### Liberal Studies (cont.)

**Student Learning Outcomes (Departmental and GUR) Assessed This Year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>SLOs Assessed</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Paper Evaluations</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>Discussion at a specially designated department meeting of a sampling of the results of senior paper projects, with an eye to discussing organization of the projects, in connection with the pace of scheduled progress, the amount of materials used, and the employment of methodology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questionnaire for Outgoing Students</td>
<td>1, 7</td>
<td>Discussion at a specially designated department meeting of how the program as a whole has prepared students to be active minds that will change lives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination of all the department’s GUR syllabi</td>
<td>9, 10</td>
<td>Discussion at a specially designated department meeting of how the GUR courses impart the designated SLOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination of selected body of graded papers and exams from department GURs</td>
<td>9, 10</td>
<td>Discussion at a specially designated department meeting of how the GUR courses impart the designated SLOs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Changes based on assessment findings:**

We have begun a vigorous dialogue on developing the curriculum, which will continue into the Fall. The next event in this process will be a department retreat on September 24.