Department: History

Assessment Coordinator: Kevin Leonard

Departmental Mission

The study of history is essential to a liberal education. The mission of the Department of History is to create and nurture a community of scholars, including students in general education courses, undergraduate majors and minors, graduate students, faculty, and staff, who value historical thinking. We prepare students for thoughtful participation in public affairs, further education, and a wide range of careers by fostering an appreciation of the diversity of human cultures and experiences, the development of research and analytical skills, and the ability to communicate effectively, especially in writing.

Department Student Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, (department or program) majors will be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts and concerns of the discipline and of major historical events in each of at least three different geographic areas and/or chronological periods.
2. Knowledge and understanding of the current historiographical and theoretical debates among historians in each of these geographic areas and/or chronological periods.
3. The ability to analyze thoughtfully and thoroughly primary and secondary sources.
4. The ability to articulate their ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and in oral presentations and discussions.
5. The ability to conduct historical research by identifying, locating, gathering, and analyzing appropriate primary and secondary sources in order to produce persuasive historical interpretations.

Upon graduation, History/Social Studies majors will be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts and concerns of the discipline and of major events in world history from ancient times to the present.
2. Knowledge and understanding of major events in Washington State history.
3. Knowledge and understanding of the current historiographical and theoretical debates among historians of the ancient, medieval, and modern periods of world history.
4. The ability to analyze thoughtfully and thoroughly primary and secondary sources.
5. The ability to articulate their ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and in oral presentations and discussions.

6. The ability to conduct historical research by identifying, locating, gathering, and analyzing appropriate primary and secondary sources in order to produce persuasive historical interpretations.

Upon graduation, History-Elementary majors will be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts and concerns of the discipline and of major events in U.S. and European history.

2. Knowledge and understanding of major events in the history of East and South Asia, Africa and Middle East, or the Western Hemisphere (excluding the United States).

3. Knowledge and understanding of major events in Washington State history.

4. Knowledge and understanding of the current historiographical and theoretical debates among historians of each of these geographic areas.

5. The ability to analyze thoughtfully and thoroughly primary and secondary sources.

6. The ability to articulate their ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and in oral presentations and discussions.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessed This Year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLOs Assessed</th>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEST-E scores</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>History/Social Studies</td>
<td>Between September 1, 2013, and June 30, 2015, 21 History/Social Studies majors passed the WEST-E subject test in social studies. 20 percent of the questions on the WEST-E test knowledge of U.S. history, and another 20 percent of the questions test knowledge of world history. The average score of WWU History/Social Studies majors was 261, 21 points above the passing score of 240 and 4 points above the mean score of 257 for statewide test takers in the same period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Measures</td>
<td>SLOs Assessed</td>
<td>Degree Program</td>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written assignments submitted by History-Elementary majors in HIST 391</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>History-Elementary</td>
<td>There were 9 History-Elementary majors studying at Western in 2014-2015. Seven of these students have taken HIST 391, a course required for the major. Four of these students took HIST 391 with faculty who no longer teach at Western. The faculty members who taught the sections in which the remaining three students were enrolled met to determine how well each student had demonstrated knowledge and understanding of major events in Washington State history. Faculty members reported that all members of the sample had effectively demonstrated knowledge and understanding of major events in Washington State history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers presented by History majors at the annual Phi Alpha Theta conference</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Seven History majors who decided to present papers at the annual Northwest regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta presented their papers to faculty members at WWU prior to the conference. Faculty members assessed the students’ ability to articulate their ideas clearly and effectively in their oral presentations. Faculty observers of these presentations agreed that all students had effectively articulated their ideas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>