

Department of History and Political Science Action Plan Update (2007)

The Department of History and Political Science completed its Departmental Review in December 2006. Within this review the Department adopted the following six Recommendations of Action:

1. Consider the incorporation of specific outcomes for both History and Political Science.
2. Each faculty member should review all his or her syllabi and file a report indicating which courses could benefit from an increased international perspective and how syllabi will be altered to achieve that goal.
3. Tools used for collecting data must be revised to elicit information specific to the learning outcomes.
4. Formalize the process of developing, researching and writing senior projects, and tie the senior project to the methods courses.
5. Ensure that recent versions of all syllabi are available in a central file.
6. Add an essay component to the exit exam in order to measure critical analysis.

Work in Progress:

While several of these action items will require extensive work over an extended period of time, the Department has begun to make inroads in accomplishing some of these items.

The Department has considered the option of adding specific outcomes for both History and Political Science, but at this time, considers the five general learning outcomes as sufficient.

Faculty members have reviewed their syllabi to determine whether their courses could benefit from an increased international perspective. Where appropriate, faculty members have made alterations.

The Department has developed two methods courses over the last several years. In the History area, the Department offers Approaches to History and in the Political Science area the Department offers The Study of Politics. Both courses serve as a springboard for conducting research and preparing for the senior project. Students are taken through the steps necessary to conduct research and write their senior theses.

The Department is in the process of revising its senior exit survey to elicit specific responses that relate to the Department's learning outcomes. This is likely to be an ongoing endeavor as we fine tune the survey instrument. An essay component of the exit exam has not yet been implemented.

A central storage system has been developed to house all senior theses, senior exit exams and alumni surveys over the past years.

All recent versions of all syllabi are currently available in a central file in the Department office.