

Report on Educational Effectiveness Assessment

Date: March 11, 1999
Certificate or Degree Program: History Department, CLA
Mission and Goals:

One of the goals of a liberal education is the realization of the unity of all knowledge. history cannot be divorced from geography, economics, anthropology, science, art, music, literature or philosophy, but like every academic discipline, history offers a unique point of view in the search for the truth. the strength of history lies in the breadth and depth of its field of inquiry, which encompasses anything and everything that anyone has ever said or done.

The special training we provide our students in the techniques of historical research and critical analysis offer an incomparable background for those pursuing virtually any type of professional or academic career, from journalism, medicine and law, to business and government. Our students are not only taught about the heritage of the modern world, but they are also trained to evaluate and interpret vast amounts of often contradictory information, to learn to select the significant details, and then to formulate a thesis or an argument based on the data they have studied.

We pay particular attention to the development of students' ability to express themselves, both in writing and speaking. We follow the dictum of Henry Adams, "The habit of expression," he once said, "leads to the search for something to express." Our philosophy is that poor writing is a tell tale sign of poor thinking, and we pay particular attention to improving student writing.

INTENDED OUTCOMES/ OBJECTIVES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES (what, when, who)
ability to identify a historical problem, to analyze, investigate and report on it, both verbally and orally	production of a portfolio of progressively improving papers	student will keep portfolio, which will be regularly evaluated by a committee of faculty members
	successful completion of History 476	capstone course on "Senior Thesis," this is both written and oral intensive and provides the opportunity for an evaluation of a student's written and oral skills
	video-taping of seminar style presentation of final project in History 476	tapes will be evaluated by a faculty member
understanding of different and changing historical interpretations	successful completion of History 475	senior level course on "Historiography," which deals with changing historical methods and interpretations