

2010-11 Program Assessment Update

Department & Program: Art, BA Art History Major

submitted by: Nancy Hathaway, Chair – Art Dept.

1. Student Learning Outcome	2. Strategy or method of measurement	3. Observations gathered from data	4. Actions recommended based on observations	5. Plan and timetable for taking action	6. Overall evaluation of progress on objective
Students will have knowledge of at least six different areas of art history, exclusive of Art in the Humanities.	Successful completion of 6 different 5-credit courses at upper-division level in Art History, to be assessed when application for graduation is made	The possible courses are the following: Art 310, World Art; Art 415, History of Ancient Art; Art 417, History of Medieval Art; Art 420, History of Renaissance Art; Art 422, History of Baroque & Rococo Art; Art 423, Art of the 19 th Century; Art 430, History of Modern Art; Art 431, Contemporary Art; Careful advising of Art History majors ensures there is diversity among the courses taken—i.e., ancient and modern, Western and non-Western-- and that the students earn at least a B in each course. No transfer credits at the 100- or 200-level can substitute for these courses.	Recommendations include the following: (1) Ensure that World Art is offered in the curriculum at least every 5 quarters (for this is the primary non-Western course); (2) Consider the possibility of expecting students to pass a comprehensive exam before completion. At present the qualifying accomplishment is the Senior Thesis, which provides knowledge in depth. Knowledge in breadth could be tested through a written or oral comprehensive exam; (3) If examination is not used, institute a departmental review of each student's list of courses to make sure the GPA is at least B level. Articulate this grade requirement in department plan and program requirements and provide a path for redress if not accomplished.	During academic year 2011-12 have discussions among faculty to decide how level of competence will be ascertained. At present the Art History advisor monitors this when students apply for graduation, but the departmental plan could spell out expectations more carefully and provide a timetable for checking on completion of courses and grades received. The faculty could discuss the merits of a comprehensive exam.	This SLO is fundamental to Art History graduates, both for those entering graduate school, and for those choosing Art History as a Humanities discipline solely at the undergraduate level. In graduate school especially the student will be expected to have a basic and broad knowledge of various areas in Art History. Recent conversations with our graduates currently pursuing Masters' degrees indicate that our curriculum is adequate, if not extraordinary. In order to make it better, we would either require additional faculty and courses or raising our standards. At present reduction of faculty overall in the department means offering fewer courses across the board and consequent conflicts in scheduling.