

Department Assessment Plan

History Department

Departmental Mission Statement

To prepare graduates with a sound understanding of history in five distinct but interrelated senses of that word: i.e., as a record of human activity, as a human reconstruction of that activity, as a sequence of development over time, as a set of interrelationships at any given time, and as a mode of comprehending and interpreting present-day reality. To that end, our students need a sense of traditions that have shaped them and of their place in them; a broad exposure to global historical developments; a close acquaintance with particular historical cases; a practiced understanding of the modes by which historical knowledge is generated, evaluated, and applied; and a sense of the enjoyment, enrichment, and critical relevance that come from historical study. Finally, they need to be challenged to comprehend all these particulars in a Christian understanding of creation and humanity to the end of fulfilling their personal and public callings in service to Jesus Christ.

Department Assessment Coordinator: Jim Bratt

ASSESSMENT PLAN:

Objectives (identify type)	Method of Assessment (include timing)	Criterion
<p>I. Skills: Our majors should graduate with a demonstrated ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) communicate well, orally and in writing; b) construct and analyze expository arguments; c) deploy basic tools of historical method with respect to identifying and handling sources, conventional notation, etc.; d) interpret and evaluate historical evidence according to its content and context, and e) design and complete feasible research projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Every three years a survey of recent grads will be used <u>and</u> professor evaluation of students in the courses they take for the major's distribution requirement. b) Every three years a survey of recent grads will be used <u>and</u> professor evaluation of students in the courses they take for the major's distribution requirement. c) Professor evaluation of students in the History Research & Methods seminar; every third year, a survey of recent grads will be used. d) Professor evaluation of students in the Research seminar; every third year, a survey of recent grads will be used. e) Professor evaluation of students in the Research seminar; every third year, a survey of recent grads will be used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In response to items c,d,e, & f (skills section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately; in addition, students will successfully complete their distribution courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher in these courses. b) In response to items i & s (skills section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately; in addition, students will successfully complete their distribution courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher in these courses. c) Students will successfully complete the History Research & Methods seminar with a course grade of 2.0 or higher; in response to survey items j,k,t,& u (skills section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately. d) Students will successfully complete the Research seminar

		<p>with a course grade of 2.0 or higher; in response to survey item r (skills section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately.</p> <p>e) Students will successfully complete the Research seminar with a course grade of 2.0 or higher; in response to items b, l, & q (skills section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately.</p>
<p>2. Knowledge—Our majors should have:</p> <p>a) a generalized acquaintance with the history of one Western and one non-Western civilization/region, similarly of one modern and one pre-modern epoch,</p> <p>b) a thorough knowledge of one such region and epoch,</p> <p>c) a close familiarity with the process of historical research and writing, including its methodology, evidentiary, and expository options and the choices that inform these,</p> <p>d) a demonstrated understanding of significant schools of historical thought, and</p> <p>e) a keen understanding of Christian approaches to historical writing, reflection, and criticism.</p>	<p>a) Professor evaluation of students in the courses they take for the major's distribution requirement.</p> <p>b) Professor evaluation of students in the courses they take for the major's distribution requirement.</p> <p>c) Professor evaluation of students in the History Research & Methods seminar .</p> <p>d) Professor evaluation of students in the Historiography/Philosophy of History course.</p> <p>e) Professor evaluation of students in the Historiography/Philosophy of History course.</p>	<p>a) Students will successfully complete their distribution courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher in these courses.</p> <p>b) Students will successfully complete their distribution courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher in these courses.</p> <p>c) Students will successfully complete the History Research & Methods seminar with a course grade of 2.0 or higher.</p> <p>d) Students will successfully complete the Historiography/Philosophy of History course with a grade of 2.0 or higher.</p> <p>e) Students will successfully complete the Historiography/Philosophy of History course with a grade of 2.0 or higher.</p>
<p>3. Values—Our graduates should:</p> <p>a) understand themselves and their neighbors better for knowing their past/s,</p> <p>b) appreciate people, times, and cultures different from their own, and</p> <p>c) appreciate the benefits that come from mutual reflection between Christian thought and historical understanding.</p>	<p>a) Every three years a survey of recent grads will be used.</p> <p>b) Every three years a survey of recent grads will be used.</p> <p>c) Every three years a survey of recent grads will be used.</p>	<p>a) In response to items b-g (values section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately.</p> <p>b) In response to items b-g (values section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately.</p> <p>c) In response to items b-g (values section), students will respond that Calvin has prepared them adequately or very adequately.</p>