2013-2014 Assessment Report

College of Liberal Arts

English

English, PHD

Expected Outcome 1: Critical/Theoretical Innovation
Students will demonstrate familiarity with innovations in critical and theoretical approaches to English studies of the last decade.

Assessment Method 1: Doctoral Exams

Assessment Method Description
The exam essays were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2014, the two primary members of each PhD assessment committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the student, 3 students in total.

Findings
Three, three-part doctoral exams were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.3. All of the exams were rated good to excellent.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Although these results were generally favorable, and students demonstrate a fairly strong familiarity with innovations in the field over the last decade, this is one potentially problematic area to which assessment draws attention. The assessment committee would like to enhance and extend our assessment procedure, particularly looking at dissertation prospectuses and dissertations so that we can measure the demonstration of these skills more closely.

Additional Comments
**Expected Outcome 2: Historical/Cultural Knowledge**
Students will demonstrate expert knowledge of historical and cultural contexts appropriate to chosen field of study.

**Assessment Method 1:** Doctoral Exams

**Assessment Method Description**
The exam essays were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2014, the two primary members of each PhD assessment committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the student, 3 students in total.

**Findings**
Three, three-part doctoral exams were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.9. All of the exams were rated good or excellent.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**
These outcomes in the area of literary movements and genres show that our PhD students are being prepared to analyze literature/texts in specific historical and cultural contexts. The assessment committee would like to enhance and extend our assessment procedure so that we can track the application of these skills at the dissertation stage.

**Additional Comments**

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**Expected Outcome 3: Literary Movements/Genres**
Students will demonstrate expert knowledge of significant literary movements and literary genres appropriate to chosen field of study.

**Assessment Method 1:** Doctoral Exams

**Assessment Method Description**
The exam essays were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2014, the two primary members of each PhD assessment committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the student, 3 students in total.

**Findings**
Three, three-part doctoral exams were rated. The range was from 3
(good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.7. All of the exams were rated either good or excellent.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**
These outcomes in the area of literary movements and genres show that our PhD students are being trained to consider literature/texts in relation to historical movements and traditional genres. The assessment committee would like to enhance and extend our assessment procedure so that we can track the application of these skills at the dissertation stage.

**Additional Comments**

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**Expected Outcome 4: Literary/Cultural Theory**
Students will demonstrate expert knowledge of literary cultural theory appropriate to chosen field of study.

**Assessment Method 1: Preliminary Doctoral Exam**

**Assessment Method Description**
The exam essays were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2014, the two primary members of each PhD assessment committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by 3 students in total.

**Findings**
Three three-part doctoral exams were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.8. All of the exams were rated good to excellent.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**
These outcomes demonstrate that cultural theory has been emphasized in our graduate seminars. The Graduate Studies committee would like to enhance and extend our assessment procedure so that we can track the application of these skills at the dissertation stage.

**Additional Comments**

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