

# MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT REPORT

## B.A. IN HISTORY

### 2006-2010

#### MISSION

The Strategic Mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of southeast Louisiana.

The major objectives of the B.A. in History are to provide students with general humanistic knowledge in the fields of History, Political Science, and Philosophy; to aid them through this knowledge to analyze and interpret problems and achievements of past and present societies; to further their intellectual development through opportunities to think, to speak, and to write logically and analytically; to prepare them to become dynamic citizens who understand the structure, powers, and procedures of national and state governments and have some knowledge of other world governments as well; and to provide specific background training for such professions as law, journalism, government service, and teaching.

#### SCOPE

This report provides assessment information concerning all Goals and Expected Outcomes in the Major Field Assessment Plan for the Bachelor of Arts in History Program for the academic years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10.

In 2003 the Department of History and Political Science adopted a new, more detailed Major Field Assessment Plan for the B.A. in History, replacing the previous plan, which took effect in 1996. The department adopted additional modifications in 2006.

#### NEW ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR 2011-12

Currently the department a still more comprehensive Major Field Assessment Plan that will be implemented in the 2011-12 academic year. The new plan will include—among other things—a portfolio evaluation and an exit exam, both of which will be administered in the capstone course for the B.A. in History, History 497. Faculty will evaluate student performance on both using a detailed rubric.

#### GOAL 1

History majors will have a broad knowledge of American and World History.

A. Expected Outcome

History majors will have knowledge of American History and British/European History, as well as African, Asian, and/or Latin American History.

Assessment

All students completing the B.A. in History program have earned at least a C average in their major courses (36 hours), which include the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization Survey\*  
History 101, 102
- b. 6 hours American History Survey  
History 201, 202
- c. 3-9 hours American History—Upper Level

History 321, 469, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 482, 485, 487, 488, 489, 492, 493, 495, 496, and/or 498

- d. 6-12 hours Asian and/or Latin American History—Upper Level  
History 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449 and/or 498
- e. 6-12 hours British and/or European History—Upper Level\*  
History 409, 410, 416, 418, 419, 423, 424, 429, 433, 434, 437, 438, 439, 440, 454, 468 and/or 498
- f. 0-3 hours Oral History  
History 488
- g. 3 hours Capstone Course (Major Problems in American History)  
History 497

\*Western Civilization and most upper-level British and European History courses include attention to African History in discussions of imperialism.

## B. Expected Outcome

History majors will have the basic knowledge of Philosophy and Political Science necessary to understand the intellectual and institutional foundations of History.

### Assessment

All students completing the B.A. in History program have earned a passing grade in the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Federal, State, and Local Politics Survey  
Political Science 201, 202
- b. 3 hours Political Science 400-level
- c. 3 hours Introduction to Philosophy / Great Philosophers  
Philosophy 301 or 302
- d. 3 hours Philosophy of History / Intellectual History  
Philosophy 315 or 417

History majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in African-American Ethnic Studies (introduced 2005-06), International Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, or Public History (introduced 2005-06).

### Minors Earned

	<u>Afr-Am</u>	<u>Intl St</u>	<u>Philo</u>	<u>Poli Sci</u>	<u>Pub Hist</u>	<u>Other</u>
2006-2007	0	3	1	7	0	4
2007-2008	0	2	1	5	0	3
2008-2009	0	1	0	3	0	2
2009-2010	0	1	0	2	0	3

## C. Expected Outcome

History majors will express satisfaction with the quality of instruction and the overall learning environment provided by the Department of History and Political Science.

### Assessment

#### Southeastern Louisiana University Exit Survey

1=very dissatisfied, 5=very satisfied

	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity of the degree requirements					
2006-2007	00.0	2.9	14.3	25.7	57.1
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	5.6	41.7	52.8
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	14.3	28.6	57.1
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	15.2	18.2	66.7
Opportunities interact w/faculty outside class					
2006-2007	2.9	00.0	5.7	14.3	77.1
2007-2008	00.0	2.8	8.3	38.9	50.0
2008-2009	00.0	4.8	4.8	52.4	38.1
2009-2010	00.0	3.0	24.2	24.2	48.5
Effectiveness of faculty as teachers					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	2.9	31.4	65.7
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	2.8	47.2	50.0
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	4.8	38.1	57.1
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	18.2	33.3	48.5
Friendliness and helpfulness of office staff					
2006-2007	00.0	5.7	14.3	31.4	48.6
2007-2008	2.8	5.6	16.7	44.4	30.6
2008-2009	00.0	14.3	23.8	38.1	23.8
2009-2010	00.0	3.0	15.2	30.3	51.8
Faculty interest in academic development					
2006-2007	00.0	2.9	11.4	25.7	60.0
2007-2008	00.0	5.6	16.7	33.3	44.4
2008-2009	00.0	4.8	14.3	42.9	38.1
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	24.2	24.2	51.5
Effectiveness of beginning courses					
2006-2007	00.0	8.6	20.0	31.4	40.0
2007-2008	00.0	2.8	22.2	36.1	38.9
2008-2009	00.0	4.8	19.0	57.1	19.0
2009-2010	00.0	3.0	12.1	39.4	45.5
Quality of instruction in advanced courses					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	2.9	25.7	71.4
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	2.8	25.0	72.2
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	4.8	33.3	61.9
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	3.0	36.4	60.6
Faculty treatment of students inside/outside the classroom					
2006-2007	00.0	2.9	2.9	17.1	77.1
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	5.6	27.8	66.7
2008-2009	00.0	4.8	4.8	23.8	66.7
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	9.1	33.3	57.6
Professional activities, associations, clubs					
2006-2007	00.0	2.9	40.0	22.9	34.3
2007-2008	2.8	5.6	16.7	33.3	41.7
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	33.3	38.1	28.6
2009-2010	6.1	3.0	24.2	36.4	30.3
Interaction w/faculty research/scholarship					
2006-2007	5.7	2.9	8.6	28.6	54.3

2007-2008	5.6	2.8	22.2	30.6	38.9
2008-2009	4.8	4.8	28.6	38.1	23.8
2009-2010	00.0	9.1	15.2	39.4	36.4
Availability of required courses					
2006-2007	2.9	14.3	14.3	37.1	31.4
2007-2008	2.8	8.3	16.7	44.4	27.8
2008-2009	00.0	9.5	28.6	33.3	28.6
2009-2010	00.0	6.1	15.2	42.4	36.4
Availability of elective courses					
2006-2007	00.0	8.6	20.0	37.1	34.3
2007-2008	2.8	5.6	11.1	50.0	30.6
2008-2009	00.0	4.8	23.8	33.3	38.1
2009-2010	3.0	6.1	21.2	21.2	48.5
Quality of instruction on standards/ethics					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	11.4	22.9	65.7
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	2.8	41.7	55.6
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	4.8	52.4	42.9
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	9.1	30.3	60.6
Opportunities to collaborate w/other students					
2006-2007	2.9	11.4	14.3	28.6	42.9
2007-2008	00.0	2.8	11.1	47.2	38.9
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	9.5	57.1	33.3
2009-2010	00.0	6.1	15.2	42.4	36.4
Library resources related to your major					
2006-2007	5.7	00.0	20.0	20.0	54.3
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	8.3	30.6	61.1
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	4.8	52.4	42.9
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	9.1	36.4	54.5
Use of appropriate technology in classroom					
2006-2007	2.9	2.9	17.1	22.9	54.3
2007-2008	00.0	5.6	16.7	33.3	44.4
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	9.5	47.6	42.9
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	3.0	42.4	54.5
Facilities and equipment related to major					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	22.9	28.6	48.6
2007-2008	00.0	8.3	16.7	36.1	38.9
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	19.0	42.9	38.1
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	15.2	27.3	57.6
Help from faculty re further education					
2006-2007	2.9	00.0	14.3	31.4	51.4
2007-2008	2.8	5.6	11.1	36.1	44.4
2008-2009	00.0	14.3	9.5	42.9	33.3
2009-2010	00.0	6.1	21.2	24.2	48.5
Size of classes in major					
2006-2007	00.0	2.9	8.6	22.9	65.7
2007-2008	00.0	2.8	5.6	27.8	63.9
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	9.5	42.9	47.6
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	3.0	27.3	69.7
Help from faculty re employment					
2006-2007	11.4	17.1	17.1	20.0	34.3
2007-2008	11.1	13.9	19.4	38.9	16.7
2008-2009	9.5	14.3	38.1	19.0	19.0
2009-2010	15.2	12.1	18.2	21.2	33.3
Global perspectives of courses					
2006-2007	00.0	2.9	20.0	25.7	51.4
2007-2008	2.8	00.0	19.4	44.4	33.3

2008-2009	00.0	00.0	19.0	42.9	38.1
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	15.2	36.4	48.5
Relevancy of courses					
2006-2007	2.9	00.0	14.3	34.3	48.6
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	8.3	50.0	41.7
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	19.0	52.4	28.6
2009-2010	3.0	00.0	12.1	30.3	54.5
“Real-world” experiences, exposure, examples in/out of classroom					
2006-2007	2.9	8.6	20.0	31.4	37.1
2007-2008	00.0	2.8	25.0	36.1	36.1
2008-2009	00.0	9.5	33.3	33.3	23.8
2009-2010	00.0	9.1	21.2	36.4	33.3
Overall quality of department					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	2.9	34.3	62.9
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	2.8	30.6	66.7
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	14.3	47.6	38.1
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	12.1	33.3	54.5
Overall quality of degree program					
2006-2007	00.0	00.0	2.9	40.0	57.1
2007-2008	00.0	00.0	2.8	38.9	58.3
2008-2009	00.0	00.0	4.8	57.1	38.1
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	12.1	27.3	60.6
Usefulness of academic advice from advisor					
2006-2007	11.4	5.7	14.3	25.7	42.9
2007-2008	2.8	11.1	25.0	22.2	38.9
2008-2009	9.5	9.5	28.6	28.6	23.8
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	30.3	21.2	48.5
Advisor’s knowledge of requirements					
2006-2007	8.6	2.9	17.1	22.9	48.6
2007-2008	00.0	16.7	16.7	25.0	41.7
2008-2009	9.5	4.8	33.3	33.3	19.0
2009-2010	00.0	00.0	24.2	33.3	42.4
Accessibility of advisor					
2006-2007	8.6	2.9	22.9	17.1	48.6
2007-2008	00.0	11.1	25.0	16.7	47.2
2008-2009	19.0	4.8	14.3	28.6	33.3
2009-2010	3.0	6.1	24.2	18.2	48.5
Advisor’s concern w/academic goals					
2006-2007	5.7	5.7	28.6	17.1	42.9
2007-2008	2.8	11.1	25.0	22.2	38.9
2008-2009	19.0	9.5	23.8	23.8	23.8
2009-2010	3.0	6.1	30.3	15.2	45.5
How many times did you meet with advisor 10 minutes or more in previous academic year?					
2006-2007	14.3	40.0	37.1	2.9	5.7
2007-2008	11.1	25.0	50.0	2.8	11.1
2008-2009	23.8	42.9	23.8	9.5	00.0
2009-2010	24.2	30.3	36.4	00.0	9.1

(1=did not meet; 2=once; 3=2 or 3 times; 4=4 or 5 times; 5=6 or more times)

1=did not participate, 5=very satisfied

Satisfaction with practicum, internships, or other hands-on experience outside of classroom

2006-2007	74.3	2.9	2.9	14.3	5.7
2007-2008	72.2	00.0	2.8	13.9	11.1
2008-2009	95.2	00.0	00.0	4.8	00.0
2009-2010	63.6	3.0	6.1	12.1	15.2

Satisfaction with study abroad and/or student exchange experiences					
2006-2007	85.7	00.0	2.9	2.9	8.6
2007-2008	83.3	00.0	2.8	5.6	8.3
2008-2009	90.5	00.0	00.0	4.8	4.8
2009-2010	78.8	3.0	3.0	00.0	15.2
Satisfaction with honors program					
2006-2007	88.6	2.9	00.0	8.6	00.0
2007-2008	88.9	00.0	00.0	8.3	2.8
2008-2009	81.0	00.0	4.8	14.3	00.0
2009-2010	81.8	00.0	3.0	12.1	3.0
Satisfaction with undergraduate research programs					
2006-2007	100.0	00.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
2007-2008	97.2	00.0	00.0	00.0	2.8
2008-2009	100.00	00.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
2009-2010	90.9	3.0	3.0	00.0	3.0

## GOAL 2

History majors will have the necessary skills to engage in scholarly research and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.

### A. Expected Outcome

History majors will be able to utilize the library resources (both print and electronic) necessary to conduct research in History.

#### Assessment

At least 75% of History majors will earn a B or better in Library Science 102.

#### Grades Earned in Library Science 102 by Graduating History Majors

	A	B	C	D	F	P	% B or better
2006-2007	23	7	4	1	0	0	85%
2007-2008	23	10	4	0	0	0	89%
2008-2009	13	5	2	1	0	0	85%
2009-2010	21	6	5	1	0	0	81%

### B. Expected Outcome

History majors will have a basic knowledge of social science research methods and statistics, including the use of computers.

#### Assessment

At least 75% of History majors will earn a C or better in Political Science 300.

#### Grades Earned in Political Science 300 by Graduating History Majors

	A	B	C	D	F	N/A	% C or better
2006-2007	8	16	9	2	0	0	94%
2007-2008	6	11	15	3	0	2	86%
2008-2009	5	5	9	2	0	0	90%

2009-2010	5	15	8	5	0	0	84%
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N/A=demonstrated computer literacy in another course before Political Science 300 was implemented.

C. Expected Outcome

History majors will be able to carefully read and critically analyze both primary and secondary sources and to discuss these intelligently both orally and in writing.

Assessment

All 100 and 200-level History and Political Science courses require the use of department-approved texts (which include examples of primary documents) and readers (which include diverse historiographical perspectives). All 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses require advanced texts and additional mandatory readings, on which students must be tested; essay exams; term papers, critical book reviews, and/or document analyses; and book discussions and/or presentations by students. History 497, a required capstone course for all History majors, is an Undergraduate Seminar in Major Problems in American History which is conducted like a graduate-level seminar and requires students to read extensively, write multiple critical papers, make multiple oral presentations, and participate in vigorous seminar discussions. History majors will earn at least a C average in their major courses, and at least 75% of History majors will earn a C or better in History 497, the capstone course.

Grades Earned in History 497 by Graduating History Majors

	A	B	C	D	F	N/A	% C or better
2006-2007	24	7	4	0	0	0	100%
2007-2008	19	12	4	2	0	0	94%
2008-2009	8	12	1	0	0	0	100%
2009-2010	20	12	1	0	0	0	100%

N/A=demonstrated computer literacy in another course before Political Science 300 was implemented.

D. Expected Outcome

History majors will acquire thorough knowledge and skill in professional writing and documentation according to the guidelines in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Assessment

All written work for 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses must meet the minimum standards of good professional writing and—where necessary—utilize proper documentation.

**GOAL 3**

History majors will possess global awareness and a multicultural perspective

A. Expected Outcome

History majors will acquire knowledge of world history, cultures, economies geography, governments, and peoples.

Assessment

All students completing the B.A. in History program have earned a passing grade in the following courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization
- b. 6-12 hours Asian and/or Latin American History—Upper Level
- c. 6-12 hours British and/or European History—Upper Level
- d. 6 hours Economics
- e. 12 hours English (including British and/or World Literature)
- f. 6 hours Geography
- g. 6 hours Philosophy
- h. 3 hours Political Science—Upper Level (may be International Relations)
- i. 6 hours Sociology

History majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in International Relations (see above, Goal 1, B, “Minors Earned”).

B. Expected Outcome

History majors will acquire knowledge of a foreign language.

Assessment

History majors will complete 12 hours of a single foreign language.

Foreign Language Credit Earned

	French	German	Italian	Latin	Spanish
2006-2007	8	3	0	5	19
2007-2008	13	3	1	3	17
2008-2009	7	2	1	1	10
2009-2010	3	4	0	6	21

C. Expected Outcome

History majors will have more opportunity to acquire knowledge of other countries through study abroad.

Assessment

History majors will increase their participation in the Study Abroad Program because of increased encouragement from faculty and more thorough dissemination of information about benefits, scholarships, and other inducements. A provisional goal is that by the 2005-2006 academic year, at least 10% of History majors will participate in Study Abroad. The



continued viability of this goal will be subject to both economic and international conditions that may affect the feasibility of student travel abroad.

2006-2007	2
2007-2008	1
2008-2009	1
2009-2010	2

## APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

In 2003 the department hired a new tenure-track Assistant Professor in Public History—Dr. David Benac (Ph.D., University of Missouri)—who has taken the leading role in developing a new Public History Option in the M.A. Program in response to growing demand for such an option and in strengthening the department's relationship with the B.A. in Cultural Resource Management program (a logical recruiting base for the Public History Option).

In 2004 the External Review recommended creation of several standing committees, which resulted in the creation of a History Curriculum Committee, a Political Science Curriculum Committee, a Social Studies Education Curriculum Committee, and a Graduate Curriculum Committee, alongside a number of ad hoc committees created as necessary. The History Curriculum Committee is developing a new survey course on World History and a 300-level Methods course for implementation in 2007-08.

Veteran department faculty members have won a number of awards. Recipients of the Southeastern Louisiana University President's Award for Excellence in Research include Dr. Barbara Forrest, Dr. Bertram Groene (retired), Dr. Samuel Hyde, Dr. Lawrence Hewitt (retired), Dr. Michael Kurtz, and Dr. Andrew Traver. Recipients of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching include Dr. Barbara Forrest, Dr. Michael Kurtz, Mr. Howard Nichols (retired), and Dr. William Robison. Recipients of the President's Award for Excellence in Service include Professor Charles Dranguet.

Dr. Samuel Hyde currently holds the Leon Ford Chair in History in the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies. Mr. Howard Nichols (1995-98) and Dr. Barbara Forrest (2001-04) have held the Woman's Hospital Distinguished Teaching Professorship in the Humanities (1995-98). Dr. William Robison (1996-99) and Dr. Andrew Traver (2003-06) have held the Fay Warren Reimers Distinguished Teaching Professorship in the Humanities (1996-99). Dr. Jeffrey Bell (2002-06) and Dr. Harry Laver (2006-2009) have held the C. Howard Nichols Professorship in History and Government (2002-2006). Dr. Kurt Corbello (2002-06) and Dr. Peter Petrakis (2006-09) have held the Johnny R. Smith Professorship in History and Political Science (2002-2006).

The department continues to upgrade the research collection in the Sims Memorial Library. It also has had considerable input into the library's decision to acquire numerous on-line research tools, including America: History and Life, Historical Abstracts, and JSTOR, to name but a few.

In response to student demand for greater exposure to scholars from both on-campus and off-campus, the department has increased its role in Fanfare, the university's annual celebration (October) of the arts and humanities: after many years of informal participation, the department inaugurated the "Then and Now" Fanfare History and Politics Lecture Series in 2002. It also is the sole sponsor for the Constitution Day Lecture (September), Veterans Day Lecture (November), Black History Month Lecture Series (February), Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture (April), and the Deep Delta Civil War Symposium (June), is co-sponsor for the Southeast Louisiana Historical Association Lectures (May and December), and Women's History Month (March), and provides sponsorship for numerous individual lectures, and helps generate an audience for the Judge Leon Ford III Lecture in History and the Morrison Lecture on Politics and Government sponsored each year by the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies.

In 2002 the Board of Regents recognized the Department of History and Political Science as forming part of an Area of Excellence in Creative Arts and Cultural Studies along with the Department of English, the Department of Music and Dramatic Arts, and the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies.

In 2004 the U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$1 million Teaching American History Grant to Southeastern Louisiana University, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, and Louisiana Public Broadcasting Corporation in partnership with the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, the Louisiana State Archives, the Louisiana State Museum, the Louisiana State Libraries, and the Region II Education Service Center.

In 2007 the department received a second \$900,000 TAH grant.