

2011

Mission

The mission of the American Studies Program is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the multiple voices and visions that interpret and, in turn, shape the diversity of the American experience throughout history. Such knowledge is an integral part of the education promised by the college's mission statement; it also prepares students for leadership in U.S. society, and in an increasingly transnational world.

Student Learning Outcomes

Goal 1: To engage fellow students, from different racial, cultural, and class backgrounds, in meaningful dialogue about problems in American society.

Outcome 1.1: Students can develop conceptual knowledge about intergroup relations and hone intergroup communication skills, with a special emphasis on conflict.

Outcome 1.2: Students can demonstrate an ability to communicate across the lines of difference in American society.

Goal 2: To gain an appreciation of major aspects of American cultural life in multiple perspectives.

Outcome 2.1: Students can describe the most important issues and interpretive debates in U.S. history.

Outcome 2.2: Students can analyze the central thematic and theoretical concerns in American literature.

Goal 3: To acquire solid grounding and training in the interdisciplinary approach of American studies, its theoretical frameworks, and research methods.

Outcome 3.1: Students can demonstrate a command of the interdisciplinary origins and development of American Studies.

Outcome 3.2: Students can apply their knowledge of central works of American Studies to research and writing projects of their own.

Goal 4: To have an informed perspective on the U.S. as a transnational actor in world affairs.

Outcome 4.1: Students can relate trends and issues in the U.S. to parallel developments in other countries and apply an informed perspective on the modern history of the U.S. role in the world to contemporary international conflicts.

Outcome 4.2: Students can demonstrate knowledge of the reciprocal relationships between the U.S. and the other cultures whose members have migrated to the U.S.

Course/Outcome Alignment

KEY:

Introductory	I
Developing	D
Mastery	M

OUTCOMES	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2
AMST 111 American Migrations		I						
AMST 240 African American Women Writers				I				
AMST 270 Asian American Literature				I				
AMST 272 Asian Immigrants in American Society								I
AMST 280 American Experience in Asia						I		
AMST 290 Theory and Methodology					I			
AMST 342 Harlem Renaissance						I		
AMST 390 Junior Seminar: the 1960s						M		
AMST 490 Senior Seminar						M		

Interdisciplinary Courses

OUTCOMES	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2
HIST 101 US Culture & Society I			I					
HIST 102 US Culture & Society II			I					
ECLS 189 American Experiences				I				
ECLS 289 American Experiences				I				
PSYC 110 Intergroup Sem. Race/Ethnicity	I							
PSYC 223 Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations and Dialogue	D							

Assessment Tools, Focus, and Methods

The department will primarily make use of embedded assessments using rubrics and exam outcomes blueprinting for direct assessment. Indirect assessment will employ student and alumni surveys, course evaluations, and the analysis of syllabi to monitor alignment. the focus of the assessments (student learning outcomes, program goals, teaching effectiveness, relevance of course content, course/objective alignment, etc.), and the methods that will be used for evaluation (will more than one faculty member participate in the evaluation, will an outside faculty member be consulted, will syllabi be collected and reviewed, etc.)

Assessment Cycle

Year 1: Goal 1, Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2

Year 2: Goal 2, Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2

Year 3: Goal 3, Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2

Year 4: Goal 4, Outcomes 4.1 and 4.2

Year 5: Alumni survey

Evaluation Review

Assessment and evaluation results will be discussed with program faculty, staff, and students (if appropriate) to determine if action is required. Summaries of the evaluations and any actions taken will be presented in the annual Program Assessment Report, and unresolved issues will be revisited in future reports, as well as in Program Review.

Data Management

Assessment data will be held on the Chair's office computer, with hard copies filed in the Chair's office. Annual reports and self studies will also be forwarded to the Dean's office.

Roles and Responsibilities

Task	Responsibility
Management of assessment and program review process	Chair
Direct and indirect assessment activities	All department faculty and staff
Assessment and program review reporting	Chair, with feedback from faculty
Assessment data collection, analysis and interpretation	All department faculty and staff
Assessment tool development, piloting, and revision	All department faculty and staff
Assessment data storage and management	Chair
Communication and meeting management regarding assessment	Chair