History Department
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kean University
(revised: July 2012)

Mission:
The Mission of the History Department, in support of the Missions of Kean University, the Division of Academic Affairs, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, develops emerging scholars capable of thinking critically, communicating across cultures, writing and reasoning within the perspective of historical literacy and a societal context.

Every student will meet basic standards which include insights into cultures and problems of civilizations; the whole and the interaction of the parts; an understanding of human groupings—countries, religions, civilizations—which have generated the emotions, symbols, and values of contemporary life; and a working knowledge of complex causes of the rise and fall of societies as well as of the underlying realities of leadership, social class and power. History graduates will encourage and inspire tolerance and mutual understanding as responsible and responsive members of a civic belief structure.

Assessment Process:
History students have 5 foundation core courses to take as part of the requirements for the major. These 5 courses provide a sound backbone of the discipline with regard to the research and theoretical aspects of History as well as the various areas of study within these fields. As such, these core courses are the primary vehicle for assessing the knowledge of our students. Beyond the core courses, students take 10 other program courses, and it is likely that no two (or very few) majors take the exact same grouping of courses. Therefore, the faculty has agreed to center our assessment on the core knowledge of historical literacy and perspective.

Each core course has assessment tools such as exams, research and reflective writing assignments, portfolio work, group work products, etc., as part of the evaluation process, and the History program has used results of assessment for making improvements to program practices aimed at increasing student learning. For example, we have determined in HIST 1062, Worlds of History, that GE’s oral and written rubrics can be adapted by each instructor for an introductory comparative essay that coincides with GE SLOs and especially focuses on History SLOs for this course concerning a global context. We are also engaging instructors in collegial discussions of how best to balance topics from western and eastern history to give adequate coverage to both from a comparative perspective within HIST 1062 in dialogue with HIST 1030-1040 (Western Civilization I-II).

The culminating assignment done in the capstone course is a direct measure for assessing attainment of our program Student Learning Outcomes. We have also determined that through our use of the GE oral and written rubrics as tools of assessment of the final research presentation and paper, we can demonstrate the attainment of History department’s SLOs at a sophisticated level. Through further conversation with colleagues we are using our research papers to enable students to not only obtain and demonstrate their knowledge but also to evaluate their own skills as historians, and to communicate these skills, which demonstrates the attainment of department and GE SLOs.

In these two courses, assessment data is also collected from an assignment that requires students to provide the evidence of meeting program goals. Each semester, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform our decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements. In addition, a systematic process for gathering data utilizing an indirect measure, the Graduating Student Survey, established by the Assessment Office was used. Data from
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Data from the student survey will also help inform our decisions regarding program improvement to increase student learning. The History Department plan is to gather assessment data from all courses so we can be more consciously and consistently aware of, and if necessary change or modify, instructional methods to keep our SLOs in mind and to the forefront of all curricular discussion.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):**

*Students who graduate with a BA in History should be able to:*

**SLO 1:** Demonstrate basic standards of historical literacy and perspective  
(KU 1, 3, 4) (GE K2, S1, S3, S4, S5)  
**Direct Measure:** HIST 4990: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals.  
**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey, Qualtrics Survey

**SLO 2:** Articulate an interpretive framework of the complex and interrelated causes, courses, and consequences of historical events  
(KU 1, 2, 3, 4) (GE K2, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)  
**Direct Measure:** HIST 4990: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey, Qualtrics Survey

**SLO 3:** Perform sophisticated skills in examining, exploring, comparing, and critiquing a variety of sources and viewpoints: written, non-verbal, artistic, symbolic  
(KU 1, 2, 4) (GE K2, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)  
**Direct Measure:** HIST 4990: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey, Qualtrics Survey

**SLO 4:** Critically and comparatively analyze individual cultures within national, regional, and global contexts  
(KU 1, 2, 3) (GE K2, S1, S2, S4, S5)  
**Direct Measure:** HIST 4990: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey, Praxis Exam Results

**SLO 5:** Demonstrate well-developed written and verbal skills in dissecting and creating nuanced analyses of historical events and historiographical interpretations of those events  
**Direct Measure:** HIST 4990: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey, Qualtrics Survey  
(KU 1, 4) (GE K2, S1, S2, S4, S5)
* KU Student Outcomes: *Kean University graduates should be able to:*
1. Think critically, creatively and globally;
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; and
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof. pgms)

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

*Student Learning Outcomes – Knowledge: Students will demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and content by:*
(K1) applying the scientific method to understand natural concepts and processes;
(K2) evaluating major theories and concepts in social sciences;
(K3) relating historical references to literature; and
(K4) evaluating major theories and concepts in the fine arts.

*Student Learning Outcomes – Skills: Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to:*
(S1) write to communicate and clarify learning;
(S2) communicate effectively through speech;
(S3) solve problems using quantitative reasoning;
(S4) think critically about concepts in multiple disciplines; and
(S5) show information literacy.