

Department of American Studies
May 2007

Learning Outcomes/Goals:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the interdisciplinary study of U.S. society, past and present.
2. Be informed about the multicultural and pluralistic nature of America's past and present through racial, ethnic, social, economic, sexual and gender differences.
3. Be able to interpret a range and some combination of material artifacts about American society, e.g. literature, painting, maps, diaries, music, census data, material objects.
4. Be able to think critically and communicate, both orally and in writing, the analysis of primary and secondary materials, evidence, and arguments regarding American cultural issues.
5. Be familiar with the importance of American cultural contexts in human expression and behavior.

System for collecting both direct and indirect assessments of Learning Outcomes/Goals:

A. Direct:

45:90 Seminar in American Cultural Studies is a required capstone course, which grades performance on #1-5. Performance in these areas includes a written research paper, oral participation, and examinations with key questions on above learning outcomes.

B. Indirect:

Survey of recent graduates with questions that ask for self-assessment of learning outcomes is conducted every seven years.

Survey of placement information of recent graduates is conducted every seven years.

Program reviews using survey information and 45:90 grades examine effectiveness of learning outcomes in preparing departmental self-study. Interim evaluations using direct assessments to assess the extent to which the program is achieving outcomes are conducted for annual curriculum reviews (every October/November). Annual evidence is reviewed by the faculty of the Department.

Learning outcomes will be posted on the Department's website, beginning July 1, 2007:
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~amstud/>