

PSLO 3

Apply the understanding of the broad patterns of history to an in-depth examination of significant historical issues for three cultural areas identified by the department (United States, Europe, Non-Western).

The department requires all majors to take one upper division United States history course, one upper division European history course, and one upper division non-western history course. In addition, they must take another upper division elective history course that could also be consistent with the study of one of the three cultural areas. All upper division history courses in these categories are also open to non-majors. As such, most of the students enrolled in upper division history courses are majors, but in each course it is likely that a few non-majors enroll. Completion of the courses is the primary way students complete PSLO3. Some courses (HI334 Rome or HI307 Early National U.S.) may be completed for upper division general education social science credit which may increase the number of non-majors enrolled. Other courses (HI362 Modern Latin America) can be, per approval of the Honors Program, cross-listed as Honors Program courses that can also be completed for general education social science credit. Washburn initiated the WUmester program in the Spring 2019 semester. During the WUmester, courses and cross-campus programming focus on a campus-wide theme to generate broad campus discussion. The WUmester theme in Spring 2019 was citizenship. Two courses, HI300 Natural Rights and Revolutions and HI362 Modern Latin America, were designed to be consistent with the WUmester theme. Efforts such as these indicate the Department's efforts to increase enrollments in upper division courses.

This PSLO is assessed in two ways: portfolio review (2021) and course grades.

Portfolios

Portfolio assessment occurs every five years. They were last assessed in summer 2016. Portfolio assessment is scheduled to again occur in the summer of 2021. Since the previous assessment, faculty have made a more concerted effort to place the evidence required for assessment into portfolio folders at the end of semesters, and also they have also endeavored to use the same rubric consistently. These measures will help allow for more effective portfolio assessment when it again occurs.

Course Grades

The department taught ten upper division courses in the three culture areas (three European, three U.S., two non-western) in the Fall 2018 semester, with a total of 92 graded students enrolled. 97 percent of students passed European courses with grades of C or better. 85 percent of students passed the courses with As or Bs. 94 percent of students passed upper division U.S. courses with grades of C or better. 83 percent passed with As or Bs. 83 percent of students passed the two non-western

courses with a C or better. It should be noted that the enrollment in both was unusually small, and one was online.

Fall 2018

	European	U.S.	Non-Western
C or better	97 percent	94 percent	83 percent
As and Bs	85 percent	83 percent	67 percent

The courses that met the PSLO requirement were:

HIUD US

- HI300 Women in World War II*
- HI300 Life and Death in a Kansas Homestead*
- HI307 American Civil War

HIUD European

- HI300 Envisioning the Future*
- HI326 Anabaptism
- HI334 Ancient Rome

HIUD Non-Western

- HI361 Colonial Latin America
- HI358 China

*Team taught courses.

Increased enrollment in CEP courses and concerns about majors indicated in assessment of PSLO1 may find further evidence in declining enrollment in upper division courses in the Fall 2018 semester as well as overall decline in enrollment at the University level.

2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2019
141	108	92

The department taught eight upper division courses in the three culture areas (one European, five U.S., two non-western) in the Spring 2019 semester, with a total of 95 graded students enrolled. 100 percent of students enrolled in upper division European history courses received grades of B or better. 97 percent of students enrolled in U.S. upper division U.S. history courses also received grades of C or better; 88 percent received As or Bs. Finally, 100 percent of students enrolled in upper division non-western courses received grades of C or better; 96 percent received As or Bs.

Spring 2019

	European	U.S.	Non-Western
C or better	100 percent	97 percent	100 percent
As and Bs	100 percent	88 percent	96 percent

The courses that met the PSLO requirement were:

HIUD US

HI300 Remembering Vietnam
HI300 U.S. Women's Movements
HI300 Separation of Church and State
HI322 Kansas History
HI307 Early National U.S.

HIUD European

HI300 Natural Rights and Revolutions

HIUD Non-Western

HI300 Pirates
HI362 Modern Latin America

As in the fall semester, despite efforts, enrollments declined in upper division courses for the same suspected reasons.

2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2019
168	106	95

Broad analysis of course grades strongly suggests that the majority of students who enrolled in upper division U.S., European, and Non-Western courses in 2018-2019 were able to apply their understanding of the patterns of the three world regions to in-depth examination of significant historical issues in the three culture areas.

Results Sharing

This report and associated data will be posted on the History Department website making them available students and community stakeholders, including alumni and auditors. Faculty can also inform students via course emails that the report is available to view through the web site. Alumni and interested community members who receive the department newsletter will be informed through the newsletter that the report is available through the Department website. The results and all evidence will be reported directly to the University Assessment Committee. The report and associated data will also be emailed directly to faculty members for their review, Tara Porter in Education, and the College of Arts and Sciences. The results will also be discussed at the first department faculty meeting in fall 2019.