

Millikin University
College of Arts and Sciences
Annual History and Political Science Majors Assessment
2017-18
by
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Executive Summary

In the 2017-18 academic year, the Department of History and Political Science faculty and students again were one of the most active and engaged academic units at Millikin University. Among the myriad of activities that the department sponsored, we welcomed speakers such as Congressman Rodney Davis, who spoke on human trafficking at the invitation of Dr. Laura Dean, and two former congressmen joined us for the biennial Congress to Campus event. The department sponsored student presentations at regional conferences and at our own Celebration of Scholarship, and also participated in the Model Illinois Government and the Model United Nations programs. Professor Kovalcik also led students on a tour of Holocaust sites in Europe, a popular biennial department offering. Hence, we have fulfilled our promise to offer unique opportunities to add value to History, Political Science, and Social Science Education majors. Specifically, with regard to the latter, a combined program meets accreditation requirements of both the ISBE and the NCSS. It also enables the department to offer a content endorsement in political science/government, and our research suggests that more Illinois high schools are advertising for teachers with the government endorsement than any other social science field. Thanks to our partnership with the Department of Education and Professor Christie Magoulias, the department now offers a content endorsement that will help our Social Science Education majors secure jobs after graduation and also attract prospective students to our program. Our graduating seniors secured jobs or graduate school admission, a tribute to our program and its ability to place students after graduation.

All History faculty hold doctorates from prestigious graduate programs, both our tenure-line faculty— Dan Monroe, Brian Mullgardt, and Tim Kovalcik— and our adjunct faculty— Bob Sampson. Our Political Science faculty—Amber Lusvardi and Laura Dean—includes adjuncts

to the Model UN conference in Chicago in November, successfully shepherding our students. Professor Dean arranged for our students to represent Russia, an obviously influential and important nation at this moment in time, hence, our students had a great opportunity for content education and

trafficking.

the department rotates the faculty assignments to these capstone courses. We have thereby fulfilled our previous goal of exposing students to different professors in the capstone courses. The department chair collected and evaluated eight research papers on whether the department's five learning goals were met.

Seminar and Historiography Research Papers

Student papers that met department standards to a high degree were assigned 5 points, those to a moderate degree 3 points, those to an insufficient degree 1 point.

High degree: (5 pts) four students	20 points
Close to High (4 pts) two students	8 points
Moderate degree: (3 pts) two students	6 points
Insufficient degree:	

Appendix

History Department Assessment Rubrics

Long Research Paper

Department learning goals are met to a *high degree* when this paper meets the following criteria:

- *thoroughly researched, with an appropriate, extensive and relevant bibliography
- *clear and original thesis and argument supported by a wide variety of primary (when appropriate) and secondary sources, including journal articles
- *demonstrates a clear understanding of cause and effect in history
- *reflects a high degree of critical thought in making distinctions between and among sources
- *reflects an excellent ability to situate specific content in a relevant body of theory
- *Oral defense reflects an advanced ability to express in oral form an understanding of relevant issues and intellectual theories related to the paper

Department learning goals are met to a *moderate degree* when this paper meets the following criteria:

- *adequately researched, with an appropriate and relevant bibliography
- *clear thesis and argument supported by a moderate variety of primary (when appropriate) and secondary sources, including journal articles
- *demonstrates an adequate understanding of cause and effect in history
- *reflects some degree of critical thought in making distinctions between and among sources
- *reflects some ability to situate specific content in a relevant body of theory
- *Oral defense reflects some ability to express in oral form an understanding of relevant issues and intellectual theories related to the paper

Department learning goals are met to an *insufficient degree* when this paper meets the following criteria:

- *inadequately researched, with an incomplete bibliography
- *unclear and unoriginal thesis, with argument inadequately supported by a narrow and limited range of sources
- *does not demonstrate an understanding of cause and effect in history
- *reflects little or no ability to apply critical thought and make distinctions between and among sources
- *reflects little or no ability to situate specific content in a relevant body of theory

*Oral defense reflects little or no ability to express in oral form an understanding of relevant issues and intellectual theories related to the paper