

SUNY Potsdam
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Report & Action Plan
Music History

Department Name: Music Theory/History/Composition

Area: Music History

Date Submitted and Academic Year: AY2013-14

Department Mission Statement:

The Crane School of Music is a community of musician-educators committed to fostering a vital musical society. Thriving programs in performance, composition, music business, and the academic disciplines of music history and theory enrich our long-standing heritage of leadership in music education. Blending proven traditional approaches and promising educational innovations in a uniquely supportive and cooperative learning community, the Crane School equips students with both the foundations and flexibility needed for the challenges of the 21st century.

Department Assessment Coordinator or Faculty Member Completing this Form:

Rebecca Gerber

Update on prior years' "Application of Assessment Results:"

1. Better foundation with potential Freshman seminar being discussed
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Intended Student Learning Outcome #1

For each historical era, students will demonstrate knowledge of pivotal historical events, societal attitudes, aesthetic and artistic trends, and be able to express their interrelationship with music; demonstrate an ability to read academic texts both interdisciplinary and specific to the discipline; respond to issues of the subject matter using appropriate terminology; and distinguish between historical styles. Music History students will also develop competence in non-western music.

Connection to Univ/Dept Mission

Our expectation of all music majors is that they will develop a strong comprehensive understanding of western music history and its relationship to the humanities, society and allied arts. We will also encourage all students to explore diverse contemporary musical traditions, including cross-cultural connections in an increasingly globalized world.

Links with other programs/departments

- *Gen Ed Component*
Lit & Style I and II fulfill 3 credits of WC; Lit & Style III fulfills 3 credits of AC.
- *Honors Program*
Lit & Style I-II each offer one Honors section to fulfill Honors requirements.
- Performance requirements

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)

Program goals and objectives for the Lit & Style sequence, required by all Music majors were completed in Nov. 2008. Final exams given in the Lit & Style I, II and III sections measure comprehension of musical/historical contexts and stylistic comprehension. Rubrics are used to assess papers and posters, which provide students with experience in information technology, research and critical thinking.

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Intended Student Learning Outcome #2

In the upper-division electives, students will demonstrate greater competence in using source materials, effective use of primary sources, and communicate their research in a discipline-specific style.

Connection to Univ/Dept Mission

The SUNY Potsdam mission and National Study of Student Engagement (NSSE) emphasize innovative teaching approaches leading to a challenging learning environment, integrative and active learning, out-of-class interactions, writing, and information technology.

Links with other programs/departments

- Anthropology electives
- Performance requirements

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)

Rubrics will be used to assess papers and posters, which provide students with experience in information technology, research and critical thinking.

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Intended Student Learning Outcome #3

Students will demonstrate a high level of critical thinking, ability to use research sources, and effectively communicate and reflect on the discipline's goals of humanistic study of music in culture, examining the wider meaning of music beyond musical notation and style.

Connection to Univ/Dept Mission

The capstone project in Music History is intended to create a hands-on experience with rigorous critical thinking and one-on-one interaction with faculty.

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)

A senior thesis is required of those students who choose a Music History concentration in the Musical Studies major. Rubrics used to assess papers will include information technology, formation of the thesis question, levels and types of research, integration of research materials in conjunction with individual opinion, and an emphasis on effective communication. A significant research paper will achieve a higher level of critical thinking, research sources, and effective communication than in the upper-division electives.