

Assessment of ARHS BA 2015-2016

1. Ability to identify major works of art and know their periods.

Learning outcome #1 was assessed in ARHS 2913, Survey 1, Spring 2016. Students were given two completely different tests on which they had to identify works of art and their periods. On each test students had to identify 10 works of art studied in class and identify the periods of 5 works of art not studied in class, but from the periods studied. The average grade on test 1 was: 83.4 and on test 2 was 87.4. Clearly students mastered this skill to a high level.

2. Ability to do formal (stylistic) analysis of a work of art.

3. Ability to do iconographic analysis of a work of art.

Learning outcomes #2, #3 were assessed in ARHS 4873 Baroque Art, Spring 2016. In this course students wrote papers, which focused on stylistic and iconographical analysis of a painting by Rubens. Using the ranking 4= excellent; 3= good, 2= fair and 1=poor the final paper in the class was assessed, with the following results: #2 average was 2.82 and #3 average was 2.52. In light of these results more focus on doing iconographical analysis in the upper division curriculum is warranted. The grades on the papers were: 3 A's; 6 B's; 6 C's, 1 D, and 1 F.

4. Ability to conduct research and write analytically about works of art.

5. Ability to speak analytically and present research results about works of art.

Learning outcomes nos. 4 and 5 were assessed in ARHS 4973, Art and the American South, Spring semester, 2016. In this course students enlisted primary and secondary sources to write research papers—displaying a blend of formal, iconographic, and cultural analysis—on the art and visual and built environments of the American South. Using the ranking 4 = excellent; 3 = good, 2 = fair and 1 =poor, the final paper in the class was assessed, with the average 2.4. The grades on the papers were 3 A's; 2 B's; 1 C; 1 D; and 2 F's (received by students who had stopped coming to class and did not hand in the assignment). These results suggest the need for further training in critical writing and thesis-based argumentation.

Regarding learning outcome no. 5, students in in ARHS 4973: Art and the American South gave oral presentation of their research. Using the ranking 4 = excellent; 3 = good, 2 = fair and 1 =poor, the final paper in the class was assessed, with the average 3.45. The grades on the papers were 4 A's; 3 B's; 1 C; and 2 F's (received by students who had stopped coming to class and did not present their work), which suggests that our students would benefit from working on their speaking and organizational skills.