

## **Academic Assessment Plan**

**(BA ARHS)**

**(April 27, 2015)**

### **Program Goals (3-4)**

*(Program goals are broad general statements of what the program intends to accomplish and describes what a student will be able to do after completing the program. The program goals are linked to the mission of the university and college.)*

- 1. Understanding of a broad range of art works from prehistory to the present.**
- 2. Ability to analyze the style and iconography of an art work and integrate it into its historical context.**
- 3. Ability to write analytical and research papers in art history.**

### **Student Learning Outcomes (6-8)**

*(Student Learning Outcomes are defined in terms of the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students will know and be able to do as a result of completing a program. These student learning outcomes are directly linked to the accomplishment of the program goals.)*

- 1. Ability to identify major works of art and know their periods.**
- 2. Ability to do formal (stylistic) analysis of a work of art.**
- 3. Ability to do iconographic analysis of a work of art.**
- 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.**

### **Process for Assessing each Student Learning Outcome**

*(A process must be defined and documented to regularly assess student learning and achievement of student learning outcomes. The results of the assessment must be utilized as input for the improvement of the program.)*

- 1. Timeline for assessment and analysis**  
**Assessment and analysis at end of each semester.**
- 2. Means of assessment and desired level of student achievement**  
**Goal 1: Direct: test from two survey classes, indirect: grades in survey classes.**

**Goals 2, 3, 4: Direct: research papers/projects in upper division classes, indirect: grades in upper division classes.**

**Goals 2, 3, 4, 5: Direct: two capstone seminars, which include oral and written presentations; indirect: class grades, admission into graduate programs, honors awards won by students.**

*(Must include at least one direct and one indirect method of assessment for each learning outcome.)*

**3. Reporting of results**

**Annual report to Dean.**

*(Must at least report annually to the Dean of college/school.)*

**Annual Academic Assessment Report  
BA in Art History, 2024-2025**

**May 2025**

**Results of analysis of assessment of Student Learning Outcomes**

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

ARHS 21003: Art History Survey II, taught in Spring 2025, assessed learning outcome #1. Students were given a midterm and final exam that consisted of 10 slide identifications and 2 essay questions. Slide identifications were drawn from a pool of 20 images for the midterm and 22 images for the final exam. Students were shown slides of artworks and asked to identify their makers, titles, and dates. Essay questions required students to describe attributes of artworks that characterized the period during which they were made. The grades were as follows:

**Midterm Exam**

A: 18  
B: 19  
C: 9  
D: 7  
F: 10

Average (Mean): 79.3%  
Total students: 63

**Final Exam**

A: 28  
B: 11  
C: 17  
D: 4  
F: 3

Average (Mean): 83.3%  
Total students: 63

The majority of students received grades of A or B on both the midterm and the final, and many students showed improvement, as reflected in higher scores on the final exam. The average (mean) grade increased to 83.3% on the final. The instructor felt the midterm average was lower than should be expected, but it was specifically brought down by students who failed to take the midterm at all and received scores of 0. Nonetheless, the comparison between the midterm and final exam grades demonstrates students' increased ability over the course of the

semester to identify major works of art and to situate them within art history and their socio-political context. This assessment was comparable to results for ARHS 20003: Art History Survey I, which was used in the 2023-2024 ARHS BA assessment.

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

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

ARHS 47803: Special Topics in Contemporary Art (Histories of Abstraction), taught in Spring 2025, assessed learning outcomes #2 and #3 through a single paper assignment requiring the in-person study of a work of art at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. The purpose of this assignment was to teach students basic analytical skills in art historical writing, including formal (stylistic) analysis and iconographic analysis, and students were required to both analyze the work visually and situate it in its historical and socio-political context. The grades were as follows:

A: 5

B: 18

C: 0

D: 0

F: 1

Average (Mean): 84.45 %

Total students: 24

A majority of students were able to perform in the B-range, which is a strong result. No students performed in the C- or D-range, which suggests that students are well trained in writing stylistic and analytical papers when they take upper-division art history courses like ARHS 47803. Overall, the instructor was satisfied with the performance of the students. The assignment reflected solid performance on learning outcomes #2 and #3, and the results were comparable to assessed results for these learning outcomes in the 2023-2024 ARHS BA assessment.

**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**

ARHS 47603: Critical Theory, taught in Fall 2025, assessed learning objectives #4 and #5 through a short paper and presentation project. Students were required to analyze a work of art on the University of Arkansas campus through in-person observation, then situate the work through research on its relationship to key texts in critical theory, including writings on semiotics and linguistic theory. The grades were as follows:

A: 4  
B: 7  
C: 0  
D: 0  
F: 0

Average (Mean): 89.18 %  
Total students: 11

Overall, the instructor was satisfied with students' solid performance on learning outcomes #4 and #5. These results were comparable to those documented as part of the 2023-2024 ARHS BA assessment.

**Any changes to degree/certificate planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis**

None.

**Any changes to the assessment process made or planned**

None.