

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
HISTORY DEPARTMENT, CLA**

Academic Outcomes Assessment Plan

March 22, 2012

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Intended Objectives/ Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation
<p>MISSION and GOALS</p> <p>The History Department seeks to acquaint students not only with facts and narratives about the past and change over time, but also with the methods and tools historians use when constructing narratives. Focus on both fact and method gives students better ability to critically analyze the problems that have faced human population across history and how humans have addressed those problems. Coursework should stimulate discussion and consideration of questions of historical identity, such as the role of the nation state in history, the uses and abuses of history as well as specific narratives or “stories” about events and people from the past.</p>	<p>Ability to identify a historical problem, recognition of the contingent and changing nature of historical narratives, ability to formulate and articulate a thesis statement, ability to construct a logically organized narrative that integrates both primary and secondary sources, ability to properly use CMS for citation, usage, and mechanics, ability to explain the significance of senior thesis research within the context of broader literature.</p>	<p>Successful completion of History 476 Senior Thesis papers evaluated according to standard rubric.</p>	<p>Collection and assessment of student papers from 476. Papers will be evaluated by the faculty member who teaches the senior thesis course.</p>
<p>Our goal is the production of students with sophisticated critical thinking skills directed not only at the past but potentially any field of academic inquiry. History students develop skills in oral and written presentation, and primary research, and gain a greater awareness of the human condition. Our students also acquire an appreciation of the complexity of this discipline; an understanding that historical narratives are constructed, contested, and always changing; and the recognition that there are varied perspectives on the past.</p>		<p>Graduating Senior's Exit statement</p>	<p>Evaluated by standard rubric</p>
<p>We seek to continue providing a well-balanced program in our established areas of strength—America, East Asia, Europe and the North—while expanding our ability to guide students in the study of Native American history, comparative world history, environmental history, and diverse methodological fields.</p>			<p>Annual review of assessment data by History Department faculty and summary report.</p>

This geographical and methodological approach not only provides the basis of what is generally considered to be a basic Liberal Arts program in History, but also develops good citizens for Alaska with high-level knowledge of Alaska's needs, its relation to the world, and how these factors have changed over time. Although we are primarily an undergraduate faculty, we offer graduate level courses through the Northern Studies Program, especially the concentration in Northern history.

For these reasons, the history department is an essential part of fulfillment of UAF's mission as well as UAF's strategic plan both of which speak of a commitment to high quality undergraduate teaching as well as an emphasis on Alaska and the North in teaching, research and service.