

## Institutional Effectiveness

2019-2020

**Program:** History BS/BA

**College and Department:** College of Arts & Sciences – Department of History

**Contact:** Jeff Roberts

**Mission:** The Department of History offers a wide array of courses to diverse student populations. The department provides General Education instruction to a large number of students in the state-required American history sequence, while Western and World Civilization sequences satisfy TBR humanities requirements. In addition, department faculty offer numerous specialized courses that attract majors and non-majors alike.

The department has developed and maintains a comprehensive and successful curriculum for history majors. The programs are designed to provide future historians with the tools and knowledge for successful graduate study in the discipline, and to prepare graduates for careers in education, law, public service or business. Majors are expected to think analytically, ascertain facts and make objective judgments, and write clearly, communicating the results of reasoned analysis.

The department shares with the University both its broader commitment to cross-

- d. Use standard written English effectively and appropriately.
- e. Present a well-organized paper.
- f. Place the research topic and/or literature survey in broader historical context.
- g. Demonstrate critical thinking, reasoned analysis, and/or problem solving.
- h. Follow any additional directions as assigned by the professor.

1. Student Participation in Co-curricular Activities

Tracking spreadsheet for the number of students who attend each co-curricular activity.

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Critical	7%	33%	33%	27%
Direction	7%	47%	40%	7%

Spring semester proved problematic when the university moved online following spring break. By this point, all students had their topics and had at least begun their research. The online environment worked better for some than others. While some thrived amidst extended research time others seemed to lag without regular in-class encouragement. At semester's end, five students simply had not produced papers of sufficient quality. Given the circumstances of the pandemic, Dr. Roberts chose to allow these students incomplete grades, rather than F's. He gave them the summer to complete their work. Three of these students had to delay their graduation from spring to summer.

Four students have since finished their project. One changed her subject entirely, and with better motivation, earned a B. Two others who struggled with both writing and analysis (rubric items d and g), received "C" grades. The "D" paper was weak in those areas and item h as well - the student did not complete all her other assignments. One student never finished – and received an "F" for the course.

The Covid-19 pandemic dramatically curtailed our student activities in 2019-2020. For the first time in reporting we cannot say with absolute certainty that we surpassed our goal of 50% participation, though we at least got close before we began to shelter in place. Things started well when we hosted the fourth annual Pauline Womack lecture in the fall. Popular radio personality Bill Landry drew a huge crowd. Two joint projects, Constitution Day and Law Night, were also well attended. Dr. Allen Driggers and Club President Jenny Huffman hosted a handful of History Club activities. One study abroad trip also transpired when Drs. Susan Laningham and Kent Dollar took eight students to Rome over Thanksgiving week.

The university cancelled all plans for spring break adventures (which included a seminar trip to Washington DC). Plans to host the Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) State Conference fell through as well. The national organization cancelled the meeting, and they have cancelled next year's as well (Hannah Cowan, who won first prize in 2019, had no chance to defend her title). For the first time in over a decade there was no Winchester Lecture in the spring (we had scheduled it in conjunction with PAT). Jenny's December graduation left History Club bereft of energetic leadership until Covid-19 short-circuited any remaining opportunities. Some students did offer helpful assistance to victims of the March 3 tornado. Graduating senior Caitlyn Harris in particular, working through the Baptist Student Union, coordinated several relief activities before the pandemic intervened.

Opportunities for co-curricular activities remain limited as the crisis continues. One optimistic note is that Constitution Day is scheduled for September 17, as an online webinar.





Appendix 1: History BS\_BA Curriculum Map

Basic Course #	Short Title	Factual Acumen	Research & Writing	Additional Career Readiness	Race/Gender Diversity & Citizenship	Global Awareness
1066	University Life				X	
1310	World Science	X				X
2010	Early US	X			X	
2020	Modern US	X			X	
2210	Early Western	X				X
2220	Modern Wstrn	X				X
2310	Early World	X				X
2320	Modern Wrld	X				X
3100	Tennessee	X	X		X	

3360

4350	Gender	X	X		X	
4360	US Social	X	X		X	