

English BA

Literature And Literary Theory (4000-Level)

Goal Description:

Students majoring in English will gain an appreciation of specific critical approaches and methodologies in studying literature and literary theory. Students will be able to synthesize this information in order to write effective critical analysis of literary pieces.

Providing Department: English BA

Progress: Completed

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Competency in Research

Learning Objective Description:

Research skills are key component of English majors and are directly tied to reading and writing. Essays written to analyze and/or apply literary texts suggest the depth and quality of the students' research, as well as their understanding of the assignment. Thus, during the spring 2024 semester, all 4000 level instructors will administer a new departmental rubric that assesses competency in Research.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Research Skills

Indicator Description:

English majors enrolled in 4000 level courses will receive assessment for research ability using the departmental rubric.

Criterion Description:

At least 80% of English majors enrolled in 4000 level courses will receive a satisfactory score on the departmental rubric.

Findings Description:

The department has implemented a rubric to be used for all 4000 level courses. It was piloted in the assessment year, and after revisions the department will now begin full implementation for the 2024-25 cycle.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Research Skills

Action Description:

The rubric for the 4000 level English courses will be revised to better represent more specifically the learning objectives assigned. The previous rubric did not measure research skills or critical analysis. Capstone projects to replace writing assessment have not been discussed in a pointed manner.

The Department of English is developing a rubric to assess learning objectives agreed on by the faculty and a process that will be able to be implemented in classes that are required of all of our majors. These processes and rubrics will be completed by November 1, 2024, to be implemented no later than the Spring semester 2025. Rubrics and processes have been developed and are in the process of being workshopped by the English Department faculty. After this, the rubrics and processes will be approved and implemented.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Reading Literature Critically And Writing About It Analytically

Learning Objective Description:

Students will be able to use various approaches and methodologies to analyze literary texts and demonstrate the ability to interpret texts by communicating their understanding of those texts in analytic essays. Students will have an opportunity to write analytical and critical discussions of literature.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Assessment Of Writing

Indicator Description:

Reading and writing are part and parcel of each other. Essays written to analyze and/or apply literary texts suggest the depth and quality of the students' reading, as well as their understanding of the assignment. Thus, during the spring 2024 semester, all 4000 level instructors will administer a new departmental rubric that assesses competency in reading and writing.

Criterion Description:

80% of English seniors in 4000-level writing-enhanced classes will meet the departmental criteria for academic writing that reflects critical thinking and good editing.

Findings Description:

The department has implemented a rubric to be used for all 4000 level courses. It was piloted in the assessment year, and the department will now begin full implementation for the 2024-25 cycle

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Assessment of Writing

Action Description:

New rubrics should be created for the sophomore level and above that reflect departmental learning objectives in writing skills. Using sample rubrics from writing programs, we will create accessible rubrics that better inform the department faculty of student success as well as their needs in improving their writing skills.

The results of the English 4000 level rubric were inconclusive as to research writing skills. The rubric will be revised and implemented for the 2024-25 assessment cycle.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

- 1) Continue to discuss capstone to replace some of the less successful assessments.
- 2) Continue to revise and update curriculum.
- 3) Work on recruitment strategies and marketing material.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Update to previous PCI:

1. The rubric for the 4000 level English courses will be revised to better represent more specifically the learning objectives assigned. The previous rubric did not measure research skills or critical analysis. Capstone projects to replace writing assessment have not been discussed in a pointed manner.
2. Rubrics for freshmen, sophomore, and junior writing enhanced classes will be created with input from faculty.
3. Changes to the curriculum are currently being revised and updated to better serve our student body.

4. Recruitment strategies and marketing will be overhauled in order to increase visibility of the English department, its programs, and its specialized offerings to students. This is to include social media platforms.

Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

Undergraduate Research: Emphasis on undergraduate research will be a component of all sophomore and above courses in the English department.

Program Assessments: The Department of English is developing a rubric(s) to assess learning objectives agreed on by the faculty and a process that will be able to be implemented in classes that are required of all of our majors. These processes and rubrics will be completed by November 1, 2024, to be implemented no later than the Spring semester 2025. Rubrics and processes have been developed and are in the process of being workshopped by the English Department faculty. After this, the rubrics and processes will be approved and implemented.

Program Curriculum: In an ongoing effort to adapt to contemporary student needs, faculty will look closely at the BA offerings in the next year to gauge the quality and effectiveness of course offerings.