

Film and Media Studies

Assessment Report, Spring 2017

1. The Annual Assessment Meeting

The Film and Studies Program has met several times during the past semester and shared email correspondence in order to discuss and renew our commitment to the state-accredited major. Participating: Catherine Burroughs (Co-Chair); Katie Waugh (co-Chair); Dan Rosenberg; Laura McClusky; Elizabeth-Juarez-Cummings; Brad Frazier; Rich Kegler; and Heather Buechler.

Topics: Our curriculum and staffing concerns.

However, official Assessment conversations were few, as the program's core mission itself is in a state of flux. Professors Burroughs and Waugh met for approximately 30 minutes on May 17 to discuss assessment procedures, and subsequently corresponded via email and online document sharing (due to summer-time travel schedules).

Topics: Research & alignment of various previous versions of Program Goals; Definition of all learning objectives & outcomes; Scope of possible assessment activities in this initial year of such work for FMS.

2. Closing the Loop

Due to a recent history of transitional and absent leadership in the program, no previous Assessment work has been done for the FMS program. Three years ago (2014), the person coordinating the FMS Program (Professor Linda Lohn) retired; thus, we have spent the six months making decisions about how to staff required courses in the FMS Program with our current faculty. To that end, we are in the process of revising the current FMS curriculum requirements, and subsequently the mission and learning goals in the major. Current students continue to express a strong interest in the FMS Program.

These endeavors can begin to be properly assessed at the end of the academic year in May 2018. However, based on a dire need for restructuring and re-envisioning the program, we have made it our goal this year to begin to review our staffing, curriculum, and core mission. This process is ongoing, but changes put in place this year include the following:

- A.** The program has adopted two interdisciplinary co-chairs (Profs. Burroughs and Waugh), and has defined a working group of FMS-adjacent faculty who will help lead future curriculum development. The major now has faculty input from Studio Art, Book Arts, English, Theatre, and Soc/Anth.

- B. Prof. Waugh conducted a course rotation analysis to determine frequency and necessity of major courses. This identified several areas of strong need for key courses in the major, and has shaped course offerings for Spring 2017 and 2017-2018.
- C. Profs. Burroughs & Waugh assumed the role of advisors to existing FMS Major students, in an effort to create faculty-student connections within the program. Anecdotally, this seems to better help students identify courses of study and internship possibilities.

3. Examination of Assessment Data

N/A

3. Program Changes

- A. Hiring an instructor in FMS (whether full- or part-time), who will remain consistent for our students and will participate in FMS Assessment. This participation will be crucial for providing the data necessary for assessment.
- B. In the effort to identify our current resources, we sent out a request for faculty to identify current courses they teach that can be incorporated into the FMS curriculum. We will continue work to evaluate how these and other courses may either strengthen our existing program, or provide opportunities for re-direction. Below are the courses identified so far:
 - SOC: Queer Representations in Contemporary Film (Dan Renfrow)
 - POLS 285: Media and Politics (Susan Tabrizzi)
 - PSY 370: Sensation & Perception (Deb Gagnon)
 - PSY 280: Psychology of Art (Deb Gagnon)
 - PS 320: Liberalism and Its Critics (Tukumbi Lamumba-Kasongo)
 - PS 365: Governments and Politics in Industrialized Countries (Tukumbi Lamumba-Kasongo)
 - JOUR 101: Writing to Be Read (Rebecca Myers)

4. Action Plan for Upcoming Year (2017-18):

Assessment work will continue alongside ongoing meetings with the FMS Working group. Key areas on which we will focus next year include the following:

1. Curriculum Goals: We are currently working on our goal of providing students with a degree in FMS that equips them with the knowledge and skills to succeed in graduate programs and promising careers.

To this end, our primary focus for the upcoming year must be on clarifying and strengthening our Assessment Plan, including Program Goals, Learning Objectives, and better identifying Means of

Assessment of Outcomes. This is particularly crucial for courses that fall outside of the core FMS-required courses, which will require a much broader scope of collaboration and input from a large group of involved faculty, in addition to the FMS Working Group. However, the entire Plan must be considered open for revision and clarification.

Additionally, initial assessment of data aligned with Program Goal #3: “Explore Production Skills” as related to Capstone production is a key area of interest, as the role of “production” is highly contingent in our ongoing evaluation with the Major itself. Data aligned with this goal will be sought out.

2. Data and Collection Goal: We will create an “Exit Interview” document in order to keep track of graduating seniors and to have them provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of our program.

Timeline: At the beginning of Fall 2017, we will establish procedures for collecting this data, and will review such data at the end of Spring 2018 (data will not be available until Spring 2018). Profs. Burroughs & Waugh will oversee the collection of this data.