

## **Art Department Student Assessment Plan - Spring 2023**

### **General Annual Assessment Background:**

#### **Indirect Assessment**

The Department administers an exit survey to our seniors

#### **Direct Assessment**

The Department administers a series of six rubrics for all our seniors over the course of the entire senior year. These are given to student in an Art Department Handbook. The Department also collects digital portfolios for all graduating seniors.

#### **Planned Cycle for Assessment of Learning Goals**

The Department will have a discussion each year of one of our learning goals. Discussion this year is highlighted below in red.

#### **Art Department Learning Goals**

1. Acquire the necessary technical and methodological skills to make visually engaging works of art.
2. Gain knowledge in the theory, history and philosophy of art
3. Excel at conducting research in art history
4. **Communicate effectively about art in both written and verbal forms**
5. Learn to refine, revise, and think critically about their work and that of their peers
6. Understand their work within the context of art history and contemporary art practice
7. Attain the ability and confidence to articulate their unique point of view verbally and through writing
8. Display professionalism in the documentation and presentation of their work
9. Attain the skills and knowledge to pursue a professional career or an advanced degree in studio art or art history

#### 2023 Assessment Data

##### Senior Exit Survey

This year all five seniors responded to our exit survey. Complete results are in the accompanying document.

##### Senior Seminar Essay Grades

As the essays are primarily art historical research regarding artists (of the past hundred years), they lend some indication as to their understanding of the theory and philosophy of art history.

##### Senior Presentation Grades

This is a public event at which seniors are expected to reflect upon the history of art, their own art making, and artistic influences all as manifested in their own work.

Result:

18 April 2023 dept meeting we decided to include the following as assessment items for this learning goal: Assessment items for this coming year include: Senior Presentation, Senior Seminar Essay, and the Exit Survey.

It was also decided that Andy Huss, who has three seniors in his spring class, will set aside classtime for filling out of the Senior Exit Survey. This worked better and between Huss' efforts and repeated emails, all five seniors completed the Exit Survey.

## **2023 Results**

### Senior Exit Survey

All five seniors were asked to rank the following: Communicate effectively about art in both written and verbal forms. (Complete surveys are in the accompanying document.)

Senior scores (1-5):

5  
4  
3  
1  
5

Written comments from survey. (These are in the same order below as the scores above.)

I think that my ability to communicate verbally and in written format has improved over the years. The critiques helped with my ability to speak about art to others, and Miller's classes helped me think critically about art history in a written format.

I definitely can communicate more effectively in written form, but verbally is difficult when I don't have answers already prepared for the questions people ask. I also don't feel like I don't always have a clear grasp of what I'm working on so I can't effectively communicate something I don't know.

I can. I can also write and express myself independent from this school and department. Do better at supporting the students as artist and you may see better results from the in regards to communicating effectively about their art in written and verbal forms.

Nobody teaches us how to talk about art. They might go over it once but if we don't pick it up initially they have no interest in reiterating or reteaching. They talk to us like shit and treat us like we're dumb if we don't understand or perform to their standards.

The most growth I saw in myself in writing about my art and others' came from the Seminar course. Studying others' artwork and learning to write about it helped me formulate my own artist statement, and the course had the most writing practice through essays. My ability to verbally communicate my progression as a major was not something that we got a lot of experience in during the seminar courses. The critiques contributed some, but they tended to be very informal. The most formal/best practice for the verbal communication part was the senior presentations last week. However, I feel confident in my ability to express myself thanks to the liberal arts aspect of Hendrix.

### Senior Seminar Essay Grades

As the essays are primarily art historical research regarding artists (of the past hundred years), they lend some indication as to their understanding of the theory and philosophy of art history.

Levels of Performance:

Basic - 1

Sufficient – 3

Exemplary – 1

### Senior Presentation Grades

This is a public event at which seniors are expected to reflect upon the history of art, their own art making, and artistic influences all as manifested in their own work.

Levels of Performance:

Basic -

Sufficient –

Exemplary – 5

### **Interpretation of Data**

Our assessment of the data suggest, as expected, more work needs doing in communicating to our seniors what it is we expect. Grades for Seminar essays were up to standard, and grades for the Presentations were good, when asking Seniors to reflect on department learning goals, more clarity is needed. We will address this at our first meeting in August.

### **Future Directions**

With better collection results for the Senior Exit Survey we will maintain those connections with the Seniors for this coming year. However, given that this coming year we have but two seniors we are not encouraged by what is sure to be sketchy assessment materials. (The following year will see our department back to more typical numbers of majors.)

Our learning goal under review for next year is: Learn to refine, revise, and think critically about their work and that of their peers. We look forward to engaging with this goal as it is covered in all of the studio classes offered by the art department.

Assessment items for this coming year include the Senior Presentation and work in the (combined with Practicum for this year) Senior Seminar. Also included are the written parts of the Senior Portfolios, and finally, the Exit Survey. The department is considering some part of the Senior Critiques.