Department Annual Report

Non-Perkins Programs

2012-2013

Social Sciences

Document Prepared By:

Mike Light
Department Information

Current year goals
Our goals included some ambitious undertakings:
--Provide at least two nights of Adjunct Professional Development and Departmental Conversations
--Create a Student Advising Plan for 2013/2014
--Conduct another Race, Ethnicity and Identity Conference
--Host a Departmental Symposium on Current Event(s)
--Increase the scope and coverage of our website
--Prepare for and start a search process for a FT Anthropologist
--Assess students in PS 110 courses
--Update all outstanding CARPS by Fall of 2013
--Create common syllabus templates for all courses by Fall of 2013
--Continue collaborations with World Affairs Council, Model UN, Study Away, GTU, and Great Decisions Speakers Series
--Discuss and create expectations for uniform textbook selection by end of 2013/2014

Goals for next year
--Continue work on common syllabus, uniform textbooks, and all external and internal collaborations started in the past.
--Finish updating all outstanding CARPS
--Begin to discuss Program Review on a Discipline by Discipline basis
--Reassess the REI conference (make this a bi-annual project) against an ILO
--Discuss changes in PS110 curriculum based on the feedback from student survey
--Collaborate and partner with the Diversity Lecture Series on REI keynote and incorporate the event in Social Sciences curriculum
--Launch our new Student Advising Plan
--Provide at least two Adjunct Professional Development Opportunities
--Provide at least double the minimum Professional Development Opportunities for FT faculty, including an REI component
--Everyone in Department will go through training to observe faculty
--We will conduct another Symposium on a Current Event topic(s)
--Increase our College service collectively

Internal collaborations and partnerships
--Diversity Lecture Series (ongoing and in early stages)
--100 Year Planning Team
--AGC, SLT, IIPD, Faculty Association, CTE, AGC Executive Committee, Sabbatical Committee, and others.
--Our faculty are some of the most engaged on campus. We have a presence on nearly every major committee and we have a plan to try and increase that scope in 2013/2014

External collaborations and partnerships
Departmental needs for support from other departments within the college
None anticipated at this time

Program accreditation Updates
None

Description of departmental advising plan and outcomes
Our current advising plan was on an as needed basis. The invitation to connect with faculty members was on our Webpage (http://cms.grcc.edu/social-sciences/student-advising) and the homepage included descriptions of each discipline within the department and career opportunities in each field. A sample from History follows:

“When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness.”
- Alexis de Tocqueville

What is history and why should I study it?

The purpose of studying history is to better understand the complex cultures as well as the historical systems and events that have driven the past, produced the present, and guide the future of our world. This crucial discipline reveals human connections across time and place; it teaches us about past human experiences and their influence upon our present lives.

Historians no longer see their discipline as a parade of powerful men and lists of dates. Instead, we critically analyze evidence about all people living in the past to create an inclusive narrative of past human experiences and an understanding of issues that impact the modern world.

So while history is the study of the past, it is simultaneously a tool used to understand the present. It encompasses every dimension of human interaction, including social life, economics, gender, culture, philosophy, conflict, and politics. Students of history study individuals, communities, and nations from every conceivable perspective, and they employ all the techniques of the humanities and social sciences to raise important questions and probe for answers about how our world has developed over time.

In particular, this discipline is about analyzing evidence in order to better understand the causation and significance of historical phenomena. In this way, history leads us to better understand the complexities and problems of our modern world. Only after we understand the historical causation of a problem can we hope to solve it effectively. As Herbert Hoover once stated most eloquently, “The supreme purpose of history is a better world.”
No other discipline better prepares students to deal with and understand our contemporary world than does the discipline of history. In the process of carrying out this crucial field of study, students trained in history develop the critical skills of research and analysis, creative methods for recognizing patterns in information, and techniques for effective and persuasive writing. This combined skillset will enhance students’ marketability and success in any professional career.

What history courses are offered at GRCC?

GRCC offers a number of survey courses on World history, European history, Latin American history, and United States history, as well as numerous specialized upper-level courses such as African-American history, Gender and Sexuality, Immigration and Ethnicity, local history, and many others. Students may also choose to pursue individualized history research projects through independent study courses or participate in a study abroad program, such as our well-known Irish Foreign Studies Program.

Our courses are open not only to history majors and minors but to the college community as a whole. Most courses have no prerequisites, although some 200-level courses may have restrictions based on the need for the completion of other courses beforehand. For more information on specific courses, please see the college’s course catalogue.

Who teaches history at GRCC?

All history classes at GRCC are taught by highly trained fulltime and adjunct faculty members who specialize in a wide array of periods, places, and approaches to history. We pride ourselves on being an excellent teaching department. We converse frequently among ourselves about pedagogy (the science of teaching), stay apprised of the cutting-edge of scholarship in our fields, and work to incorporate the latest scholarship and the best teaching techniques into all of our courses. Our consistently positive student evaluations reflect our enthusiasm and our dedication to teaching.

In addition, our historians are also experienced, professional scholars with many honors and credits to their names, and who are continuously engaged in an enormous range of activities involving research, publishing, presentation, community outreach, and service to the college and the wider academic community. All these activities inform our teaching and ensure the highest quality educational experiences for our students.
What careers are possible with a history degree?

The study of history opens a wide variety of careers to students and gives them the knowledge and skills to succeed in fields ranging from education, law, government, business, the non-profit sector, the arts, and many other fields. Students wishing to know more about the career opportunities afforded by a history major are encouraged to visit the American Historical Association’s “Careers for History Majors” website.

Whom may I meet with for more information?

Those who would like more detail on the discipline of history, GRCC’s specific history classes, or any other related issue are encouraged to contact one of three full-time faculty members, each representing a different subfield.

Mike Light

Chair of the Social Science Department

Professor of American History

mlight@grcc.edu

616-234-4298

203A White Hall

Susan Williams

Professor of European History

swilliams@grcc.edu

616-234-4418

203E White Hall
Robert M. Hendershot, Ph.D.

Professor of World History

rhenders@grcc.edu

616-234-4104

203D White Hall

At our year end department meeting it was decided that this approach was a failure in almost every respect. The website presence will not change, but we will be more proactive in serving student advising needs in the future. 2013/2014 will include at least two advising events and face to face meeting times for interested students.

Student Achievements & Awards

Hyunjin Lee was awarded the Elizabeth Knapp Scholarship. This scholarship is valued at $1000.00

Other department updates

N/A

Faculty & Staff

Departmental Professional Development Activities (Contractual Obligations for Departmental Faculty Development/6 hours)

This section is in flux due to the changing nature of the contract. I will provide a report of individual accomplishments and Professional Development at a later date.

Faculty Professional Development Activities- Year End Summary

See Above...

The Department collaborated on another successful REI conference. This conference is a major undertaking and it requires the presence and participation of every FT faculty member. We also participated in the delivery of a joint Symposium on Gun Violence with Psychology and Criminal Justice (http://cms.grcc.edu/social-sciences/white-hall-symposium-gun-violence-america)

Below I will include a summary of all Professional Development and Awards/Community Service for this past year and a discussion of future plans:

Gordan Vrusic:
I gave presentation at the 2013 Race and Ethnicity Conference at GRCC
I attended 3 presentations at the Race and Ethnicity Conference at GRCC
I attended four lectures at the West Michigan World Affairs Council Great Decisions Series at Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI

Heather Forrest:

- June 2012: Great Teachers Seminar Co-Lead of the event in Whitehall. A three-day event.
- Obligatory Fall Start-up meetings on ADA Compliance and Departmental Meetings
- Participated in the Constitution Day Panel on September 18
- Attend Monthly meetings as Academic Governing Counsel representative for our Department
- Attend meeting in October with Department Head and fellow PS profs to discuss moving to one textbook. Though painful, the objective was accomplished.
- Attend College-wide meetings on January 9 and 10, including Department Meeting
- Held regularly scheduled office hours as required.
- Conducted web training with Cengage (publisher of newly adopted book) to get better acquainted with the loading of material into Blackboard.
- In February, attended a School of Arts and Sciences meeting at request of Dean Chesley to discuss the importance of SAS.
- February 24, attend World Affairs Counsel event, which GRCC sponsored, with Dina Temple-Raston regarding the changing dynamic of terrorism and the "stories" behind the killing of Osama bin Laden.
- In March, created a Camtasia video for colleague (Yan Bai) regarding the above training -- a "how to".
- Recreated, and added to, Camtasia video instructions on how to add test bank and load materials into Blackboard sites. Loaded video on to Political Science Blackboard site for all Adjunct and Full-time faculty's benefit.
- Presented a lecture on The Latino Vote in the 2012 election at the Race, Ethnicity and Identity Conference. Assigned an essay to students regarding the same.
- Attended several other lectures at the REI conference during that week in March.
- April: Attended Honors Dinner/Brianstorm meeting with fellow Honors colleagues
- Represented GRCC at World Quest sponsored by the World Affairs Counsel.
- Attended Department Meeting regarding new Faculty Evaluation Process.
- Maintained and updated Political Science Blackboard site for all PS faculty.
- On-Campus Trainings through CTE:
  1. i-clicker training
  2. To Care and Comply Webinar (February)
  3. Introduction to FEC Training (May)
  4. FPE Plans and Reports Training
  5. Substantive Projects Training
  6. Teaching and Assessing Training
Lisa Gloege:

- Attended the American Economics Association Conference on Teaching and Research on Economic Education
- Served as a course reviewer for the Blackboard Exemplary Course Program
- Faculty Development Plans for Upcoming Year

--We will incorporate at least one major Professional Development opportunity into our REI conference event. Our intention is to collaborate with the Diversity Learning Center and Criminal Justice on this experience. We will open this opportunity up to any and all interested faculty.
--We will plan and deliver another successful REI conference and this year we will assess it against an ILO
--We will aim to provide additional opportunities for professional development

Dillion Carr:

- **Professional Organizations:** Council on Michigan Archaeology, Midwest Archaeological Conference, and Society for American Archaeology
- Presented a paper titled “Paleoindian Economic Organization in the Lower Great Lakes Region” at the Midwest Archaeological Conference in East Lansing, MI
- Presented papers titled “Paleoindian Economic Organization in the Lower Great Lakes Region” and “The Round Lake Cache” at the Ontario Archaeological Society Annual Meetings in Windsor, Ontario.
- Asked to contribute a paper for a special volume of the Wisconsin Archeologist
- Attended the Council on Michigan Archaeology (COMA) annual meetings.

Keith St. Clair:

- I taught a 4 part series on the Arab Israeli conflict at both the Calvin Academy of Lifelong Learning and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Aquinas. Two additional talks at Aquinas on South Africa and another on the Arab Spring.
- I gave a talk to the Women’s City Club on Israel.
- I spoke to the Sunshine Rotary Club on my grant to Cuba last year.
- I spent two and a half weeks on my own dime traveling and conducting field research in Turkey.
- I gave a talk on Israel to the Presbyterian Church in Lansing.
- I reported on my IIPD to Cuba last Summer at GRCC.
- I attended the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education at its annual conference in Ohio.
- I took the Foreign Affairs Club to the Model UN in Chicago and the Model Arab League at GVSU.
Cedric Williams:

- I have been appointed to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) to start Fall 2013

Robert Hendershot:

- Peer reviewed two scholarly articles for the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*
- Published a book review in the *International History Review*
- Published a chapter in *Anglo-American Relations: Contemporary Perspectives* (Routledge, 2012). (The hard cover edition was released this past November, and a paperback version is due out later this year.) [http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415678506/](http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415678506/)
- Was asked to write a detailed review a new world history textbook for Oxford University Press. Submitted.
- Presented in a panel discussion focused on the Gun Violence debate in the United States as part of the college’s Contemporary Issues Event.
- Completed my Longevity Training requirement
- Served as my department’s representative on the Faculty Association Council
- Chaired and refereed the Social Science Department’s Student Paper Competition
- Presented at the Student Leadership Awards Ceremony
- Completed the “Midpoint Merit” “Faculty Student Advising” training sessions
- Planned Dr. Karen Devine’s participation at this year’s REI conference, including a guest lecture to my Irish History class, her keynote address, and a separate meeting with a cohort of outstanding GRCC students to tell them about America’s Fulbright program and its application processes.
- Presented at this year’s REI Conference, “Confronting Mechanisms of Control: Race, Gender, and Religion in Colonial Mexico” ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-ZBXTlc480](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-ZBXTlc480))
- Participated in my department’s adjunct mixer and departmental meetings
- Served on the Study Abroad Committee
- Participated in "Be True to Your School" Arts and Sciences meeting
- Won a highly competitive grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for participation in this summer’s New Delhi-based institute, “India’s Past and the Making of the Present”
- Won an IIPD grant to facilitate my travel expenses for the NEH institute.
- Updated, re-tooled, and expanded various lecture and class activities and projects for HS120, HS121, HS240, HS215.
Susan Williams:

* Completed Longevity Training
* 5 Year Service Acknowledgement
* Social Science Paper Competition Committee
* Diversity Lecture Series Committee
* Trainings: Classroom Evaluation, Midpoint Merit, Reading Mentorship
* Assisted in planning Karen Devine visit and student meeting for REI conference
* Participated in REI conference planning and integrated talks into course curriculum
* Participated in Adjunct mixer and Department Meetings
* Reading Mentor
* Participated in "Be True to Your School" A&S meeting
* Blackboard Exemplary Course Reviewer
* Updated and retooled online HS101 and HS102

Mike Light:

- Member of AGC Executive Committee
- Member of SLT
- Organized and Led Social Science Department Race, Ethnicity and Identity Conference
- Guest Lecturer for Interwar Years Course here at GRCC
- Guest Speaker for UICA film series
- Led Departmental initiatives across the board in role as Department Head
- Organized and led Adjunct orientation for Department including three meetings and one social event
- Board Member of West Michigan Outlaws Travel Baseball

Mike DeVivo:

**Manuscripts Reviewed**


Award


Broadcast Interviews


Yan Bai:

■ None Reported

Selected Publications and Presentations


EOL/Release Time Work

Lisa Gloege (Faculty Professional Development) DLIT
Mike Light (AGC Executive Committee)
Steve Abid (Faculty Professional Development) New Faculty Institute

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments/Awards
See Above

Faculty & Staff Community Service
See Above

Curriculum

Course Document (CARP) Updates completed this year
All courses in Political Science, Economics, Anthropology, Archeology and Sociology were updated this year. History, Geography and Gender Studies are being updated this Summer. This work should be completed by Fall of 2013. No new courses were created this past year.

New Courses/Course Improvement Projects
No new courses were created this year, but we did assess students in all PS 110 courses:

Survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y69FCMK

Survey Results

https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=Tuf_2fGYD1C0WoAaN8or_2bGmFUsBSMhTumxYJKAMcqYlac_3d

Assessment of Student Learning

Please answer the questions below for each assessment project that you are working on this year. If you have more than one project, simply cut and paste the headers for each section below, in order to create a report for each.
Program Learning Outcome(s) assessed this year
We are still in the stages of identifying our LO for the upcoming year. I have meetings set up this summer to work this out with Katie.

Measures of Student Learning
See above

Initial Data and Findings
See Above

Curricular or Pedagogical Changes Implemented
Moving toward single textbook and uniform syllabus for all disciplines as explained above

Data and Findings (post improvement/change)
In progress