

Departmental Assessment: POLITICS

Goal/Outcome

All three full time members of the Department of Politics agree that one of the outcomes that we value most is to produce students who are skilled researchers and analytical writers.

Strategy

In all of our courses we require that our students write research papers and/or analytical essays. We require that all of our seniors, as part of the Senior Seminar, complete a major research paper.

Assessment Method

The person teaching the Senior Seminar will draw up a rubric that will be used to evaluate each student's research paper. The rubric will include an assessment of: breadth and quality of the research; the quality of the writing; the comprehensiveness of the literature review; the coherence, clarity and persuasiveness of the analysis.

Assessment Impact

Every August, prior to the start of the fall semester, we will meet to review the rubrics from the previous spring's Senior Seminar students. We will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the senior research projects, and think of ways to address the shortcomings.