### 1. Student Learning Outcome

Demonstrate an awareness of current scholarly opinion regarding issues of interpretation in the field and the ability to articulate and discuss art within our own culture and the art of culturally diverse settings.

#### 2. Strategy or method of measurement

(a) Awareness of current scholarly views is taught in Art 339, Intro to Art Historical Research, by identifying 9 different methodologies/schools of thought in the discipline. Comprehension is tested by exam at the end of the course. In this class students also write a research paper, where they must seek out diverse sources, differing opinions, & current scholarly views. This is assessed in the bibliography attached to the paper. Term papers are also assigned in some of the Art History courses (Art 422 and 423). Even higher standards of use of current scholarship are expected for the Senior Thesis, Art 491.

(b) Discussion & articulation of ideas about art in Western & non-Western culture is practiced in all upper-division Art History courses, and especially in seminars.

#### 3. Observations gathered from data

Grades are the tool for evaluating success in both SLO (a) and (b). The instructor keeps grades for special assignments in all courses, notably for the written exam in Art 339; the term papers in 339, 422, & 423; thesis in Art 491. Skill in articulation & discussion of art can be measured through oral participation in class as well as on essays, essay exams, & term papers.

Art 339, offered every Fall, may be used as an index. In AY 2011-12, 11 students completed the course. 5 received overall grades of A, 4 rec’d B, 1 rec’d C, and 1 rec’d X. Grades for the written exam were: 6 A, 3 B, 2 C. Grades on term paper were: 5 A, 5 B, 1 X. Discussion grades were: 7 A, 4 B. There was not absolute correlation between grades on each assignment with overall grade.

#### 4. Actions recommended based on observations

An analysis of performance in Art 339 suggests good (but not perfect) success (A and B grade for Art History majors are commendable; C grade is judged weak.) Recommendation: install minimum threshold of B for Art History majors. Students receiving C need to demonstrate mastery through additional requirements. These would need to be determined through departmental faculty decision. Possibilities include repeating the course, or earning at least a B on Senior Thesis (Art 491).

#### 5. Plan and timetable for taking action

It is recommended that the department come to consensus about minimum threshold for grades in the critical courses, Art 339 and 491. Other courses could also be looked at—for example, the Seminar in Art, Art 496 (where discussion could be assessed).

Possibly other assessment tools could be considered, such as mandatory attendance at Visiting Artist lectures, since these are almost always about contemporary/current art and artists. This would be an important balance for Art History students, particularly with reference to providing culturally diverse settings for talking about art.

This should be accomplished by the end of AY 2012-13.

#### 6. Overall evaluation of progress on objective

These SLO’s are still relevant for students graduating in Art History.