

MSU Departmental Assessment Report Spring 2015

Department: School of Film and Photography

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Degrees/Majors/Options Offered by Department

BA in Film and Photography

MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking

Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year: 2014-2015
Department: School of Film and Photography
Program(s): BA in Film and Photography
MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking

Assessment reports are to be submitted annually to report assessment activities and results by program. The reports are due every summer with a deadline of September 15th each year.

The use of this template is entirely optional.

Note: These reports have been required by MSU policy since 2004.

Please note: Assessment Plan, including outcomes, rubrics, and schedule, were submitted in Academic Year 2012-13.

1. What Was Done

According to our assessment plan, we evaluated learning outcomes 2 and 5 this year in selected courses in the Undergraduate curriculum.

We evaluated outcomes 2, 5, and 6 in the MFA curriculum.

2. What Data Were Collected

Fall 2014

B.A.

2. The final assignment was collected from PHOT 374, PHOT 401, FILM 351, and FILM 372 in the undergraduate curriculum and scored using our “Production Assignment” rubric template.

5. The final assignment was collected from PHOT 374, PHOT 401, FILM 351, and FILM 372 and scored according to the “Production Assignment” rubric.

MFA

2. The final film assignment was collected from FILM 510 and scored according to our “MFA Production Assignment” rubric.

5. The final written assignment was collected from FILM 504 and scored according to our “Creative Written Rubric.”

6. The final film assignment was collected from FILM 510 and scored according to our “Production” rubric.

Spring 2015

B.A.

2. The final assignment was collected in PHOT 373, and FILM 371, and scored according to our “Production Assignment” rubric.

5. The final assignment was collected from FILM 381 and scored according to our “Written assignment” rubric.

MFA

2. The final assignment was collected from FILM 517 and FILM 518 and scored according to our “Production Assignment” rubric.

5. The final written assignment was collected from FILM 518 and scored according to our “Production Assignment” rubric

3. What Was Learned

BA

2. A majority (more than 75%) of our students “understand and appreciate the history and criticism of photography and/or film,” although the fall students fell slightly below this threshold.

5. Students demonstrated an ability to “employ critical thinking skills informed by integrating areas of knowledge outside their chosen discipline” with a total average of 66% of those enrolled, with the spring classes again outpacing the fall with scores that met or surpassed out threshold of 75%.

MFA

2. A majority of the MFA students demonstrated an ability to “understand and appreciate the history and criticism of film and related media,” with the percentage ranging from a low of 67% to a high of 100% depending on the semester and the class.

5. A majority of the students demonstrated an ability to “employ critical thinking skill.”

6. A majority of students were able to “effectively work within the professional/production structures” of their field

4. How We Responded

BA

2. We are revising our rubrics for next year to allow us to pinpoint specific weaknesses more precisely and asking instructors to include the rubrics in selected assignments.

5. To create a more consistent outcome among the students, we are making “critical thinking” a production imperative beginning with freshman classes.

MFA

2. Because many of our MFA students come from science backgrounds, it often takes several of them at least a semester to develop a more aesthetic sensibility toward film history and criticism; to expedite this process, we are sending out reading /viewing lists to the students the summer preceding enrollment to help accelerate the process.

5. While the students’ performance in this area improves the longer they are in the program, we are exploring new exercises in the first semester to more fully integrate critical thinking into the curriculum.

6. The students do well in this area, and we will reinforce this area of strength by continuing to emphasize the importance of this ability.

Note: Results of the assessment will be shared with faculty at the Startup meeting on August 21, 2014.

