

Millikin University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
**Annual History Major Assessment**  
**2009-10**  
by  
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2010

**Executive Summary**

In the 2009-10 academic year, the History Department operated with only two of three tenure line positions filled in the fall and with only one in the spring as the other remaining tenure-line faculty member, Tim Kovalcik, was on leave. An outstanding adjunct professor with a PhD in History from the University of Illinois, Robert Sampson, was recruited and taught courses that prevented any diminution in department offerings. In addition to Dr. Sampson, the department recruited another adjunct instructor from a nationally ranked History program, Ellie Perelman, late of the University of California-Berkeley. The two tenure-

content area, appropriate for juniors or seniors), and Historiography, often taken in the fall semester of the senior year.

The concentration in the History learning experience is on critical analysis in part because the department is too small to hope to offer comprehensive coverage of anything so broad as

Students must complete at least one course in each of three major fields: U.S., Europe, Non-Western or Global.

The department offers between 35 and 40 courses per year, and is a major contributor to university requirements at both the sophomore level (IN 250) and junior level (IN 350). About 700 students per year pass through history classes at Millikin.

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## **Assessment Methods**

Students are assessed in the content seminar HI 400, since all history majors must take this course. In the discipline of history, the seminar is typically the capstone course. It represents an opportunity for a credentialed faculty member to instruct students in a content area that has been a major focus of that faculty member's research and writing. Students are assigned advanced articles and scholarly monographs in the content area and are assessed via essay quizzes. Students also complete a research paper based on primary sources and present that paper to the class in a formal oral defense.

