

Assessment Rubric for Senior Thesis in Literature

The **Literature** major is intended to provide students with an appreciation of our literary heritage, to permit them to develop enhanced skills of writing and speech, and to allow them to pursue in depth their own literary interests. Beginning in 2009, the Department adopted overall learning goals having intentionally formulated them in concert with the College's overall learning goals. Subsequent to the adoption of the learning goals, the members of the department identified eight student learning outcomes for the literature major.

Student Name: _____
 Reader Name: _____
 Term: _____

Is the project being assessed an analytical or creative work? Analytical Creative

Learning Outcomes – For Analytical Works Only <i>For creative works, please see the reverse side of this page.</i>	Excellent 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Score
1. Conceptual vocabulary Students will demonstrate mastery of the basic conceptual vocabulary used in the study of literature — i.e., the ability to define and use terms appropriate to literary genres, literary techniques, rhetorical figures, and critical theory.					
2. Understanding of movements Students will have a clear understanding of the standard periodizations of English literature and some of the major authors and works in each period.					
3. Knowledge of an author's work Students will demonstrate detailed knowledge of at least one major author's work.					
4. Ability to analyze a poem Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze a poem in terms of its meter, structure, argument, imagery, tone and other stylistic features.					
5. Ability to analyze narrative Students will have the ability to analyze a narrative (in a play, film, short story, or novel) in terms of its plot, characters, ethical concerns, themes, and structure.					
6. Clarity/cogency of writing overall Students will demonstrate the ability to write clear and cogent prose.					
7. Research Methods Students will demonstrate familiarity with various forms of research, including use of the library, the Internet, and databases.					
8. Understanding of literature within the humanities Students will demonstrate the ability to give a considered and coherent rationale for the study of literature and its place within the humanities.					

Learning Outcomes – For Creative Works Only	Excellent 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Score
1. Mechanics					
2. Coherence					
3. Point of View					
4. Characterization					
5. Dialogue					
6. Scene/summary					
7. Detail/setting					
8. Plot/structure/conflict					
9. Voice/style					
10. Theme					

Additional Comments: *(Please provide some narrative that describes your impressions of the quality of this thesis as related to the student learning outcomes in the literature major.)*