

Social Science Secondary Education Program  
Annual Report, 2013-2014

This year the Social Science Secondary Education (History) Program consisted of 15 students, an increase from six the year before. Newcomers are a combination of freshmen, and Millikin students who switched from another major. In the fall term two seniors student taught at John's Hill School and Argenta-Oreana. Dr. Mullgardt observed both students the required five times and offered his written feedback after each observation. Additionally, he met with each student, and his/her co-teacher, at both the midterm and at the term's end to discuss their grades and their strengths and weaknesses. He also met with each co-teacher to discuss student progress, and to assign final grades for each student. Both students successfully completed their student teaching, and graduated in December of 2013. In the spring, another student successfully completed the required preliminary observation hours at Eisenhower high school, and will begin student teaching work there this fall.

Program Assessments:

In the Spring, Dr. Mullgardt met with Dr. Christie Magoulias to discuss the Program Assessments mandated for national reaccreditation in 2015. Dr. Mullgardt has replaced the former lone Assessment addressing Illinois history with new Assessments that will strengthen the likelihood of reaccreditation with both the national NCATE, and also with the Illinois State Board of Education. In addition to the required State Licensure Exam, the GPA in the major, and the 400 History Seminar Paper, future students will, in History 425, be assessed by their performance on a content exam modeled on the state's 114 test, a major research paper on best practices in the teaching of history and political science, and written teaching philosophies addressing the teaching of economics and psychology. Lastly, students will continue to be evaluated as student teachers as part of the Program Assessment.

Endorsements:

Dr. Mullgardt is advising Social Science Secondary Education majors to seek endorsements in either political science or psychology as they continue their coursework. As defined by the Illinois State Board of Education, a graduate can earn an endorsement in disciplines outside of history by taking 12 hours in an additional field, and by successfully passing the ISBE content exam for that area. As secondary schools periodically advertise jobs where endorsements are preferred, Dr. Mullgardt will assist students in signing up for appropriate courses and preparing for content exams to make graduates more marketable.

Course name change:

The course Cultural Geography (HI206) has been changed to Human Geography (206) as the latter contains the content future teachers will need for secondary classrooms. Cultural Geography is a sub-field of Human Geography, and given its specificity is less useful for a semester-long course focus. Human Geography will continue to be taught in the same term as Anthropology as the two courses, according to students, complement and reinforce each other.

History 425:

Dr. Mullgardt ran History 425 as an independent three-credit course in the fall of 2013, and will do so again in 2013. He is still contemplating splitting the course into two (as per last year's report), but wishes to wait until more students enter the program, and after he determines how this would fit with potential endorsements in political science or psychology.