Degree Program
Assessment of Student Learning Plan
Kansas State University

A. College, Department, and Date

College: College of Arts and Sciences / Graduate School
Program: Security Studies
Departments: History and Political Science

B. Contact Person

Professor David Graff, History
Professor Andrew Long, Political Science

C. Degree Program

Ph.D. in Security Studies

D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

1. Student Learning Outcome(s)

a. List all of the student learning outcomes for the program

(1) Historical perspectives on security issues. The student can find and apply information from historical literature on the historical roots of particular security issues as well as related historical cases in order to provide insight.

(2) Political science approaches to security issues. The student can identify and apply general political science findings from the literature to particular security issues.

(3) Research methodology. The student has mastered basic research methods in history and political science applicable to security studies, and can find and apply the appropriate method to attack a particular problem.

(4) Data collection. The student has demonstrated the ability to find and assemble a substantial and relevant body of data (whether that takes the form of archival documents, a set of quantitative data, or some other form) to investigate a particular research problem.

(5) Written communication. The student can summarize his/her research process and present research results clearly and effectively in writing.

b. Identify outcomes that will be assessed in the first three years of the plan.

All of the above.

<u>Relationship to K-State Student Learning Outcomes</u>

	University-wide SLOs			
Program SLOs	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Professional Conduct	Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
1. Historical perspectives on security issues	X			
2. Political science approaches to security issues.	X			
3. Research methodology	X	X	X	
4. Data collection		X	X	
5. Written communication		X	X	

2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?

Direct: All Ph.D. students are required to complete a dissertation (a major piece of independent research) and submit to an oral defense of the dissertation. The four members of the student's supervisory committee (of whom at least one is from History and at least one from Political Science) will each assess the dissertation for demonstrated mastery of the five SLOs. In each of the five SLO categories, the four faculty members will rank each student's performance level at one of the following four levels:

1. Deficient
2. Acceptable
3. Above Average
4. Outstanding

Indirect: All students will receive an anonymous survey upon their completion of the program, asking them to rate their courses and the program as a whole on what they have learned, as well as their overall satisfaction. They will also complete individual course evaluations at the end of each semester.

3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?

Direct measures will be assessed immediately after the student's oral defense, normally during the student's final semester in the program.

Indirect measures will be assessed at graduation, as students will receive a survey immediately following their completion of the program. In additional, individual course evaluations will be collected at the end of each semester.

4. What is the unit's process for using assessment results to improve student learning?

The data collected over the previous academic year will be reviewed, summarized and analyzed by the Security Studies Faculty Committee at the beginning of each fall semester. These results will be used to guide changes to individual courses and to the overall program structure in response to problems and concerns.