Liberal Arts Essentials Assessment Plan

Course: English 341: Nineteenth Century American Fiction

Writing Unit: Yes

Instructor: Williamson

Method: Examination Section Assessment and Course Evaluation Forms

LAE Category: The American Experience

Goal 1: Muskingum students will develop skills in perception, analysis, and expression.

Learning Objective 1: A Muskingum College student will be able to define a meaningful issue (or problem) related to an academic area of study, formulate a position (or solution or argument) on that issue, and communicate his or her position effectively to a professional audience.

A. Student work examined

List the tasks used to measure the objective (e.g., exams, research project/paper assignments, presentations or class assignment) and attach a copy of each along with the Departmental plan.

The students will answer items in an identification section on a major exam pertaining to major authors, literary works, and literary movements that are part of nineteenth century American fiction. In lectures and class sessions previous to the exam, information related to these topics will have been presented.

In the identification section, students will do the following tasks:

(1) Read a quotation from a significant work of nineteenth century American fiction.

(2) Identify the author and the title of the work from which the quotation has been taken.

(3) Define an issue in nineteenth century American fiction to which the quotation relates. Explain three ways in which the quotation relates to the issue. The issue will pertain to a specific movement in nineteenth century American fiction (Romanticism, realism, naturalism).
In completing these three tasks, students will demonstrate their abilities to define an issue related to nineteenth century American fiction, formulate a position on that issue, and communicate the position effectively.

A second stream of evidence that will be used is the course evaluation form given to students during the final week of class. This form includes an item asking the students to evaluate how well the instructor explained relationships between topics in the course. Using both a self-reported measure (the item on the evaluation form) and a measure assessed by the faculty member (the exam identification item) ensures that multiple streams of data are being used to develop a sense of how well the course is meeting the goals of the LAE.

B. **Scoring Criteria**

   Briefly explain the criteria used to evaluate student performance in relation to the learning objective (i.e., what constitutes advanced, proficient, partially proficient, not proficient, etc.). Attach copies of measurement instrument or rubric.

*Advanced* will be defined as students being able to identify the author and title of the work and being able to explain three ways in which the quotation relates to an issue in nineteenth century American fiction.

*Proficient* will be defined as students being able to identify the author and title of the work and being able to explain two ways in which the quotation relates to an issue in nineteenth century American fiction.

*Partially proficient* will be defined as students being able to identify the author or title of the work and being able to explain one way in which the quotation relates to an issue in nineteenth century American fiction.

*Not proficient* will be defined as students being unable to identify the author or title of the work and being unable to explain any ways in which the quotation relates to an issue in nineteenth century American fiction.

The following point system will be used in this section of the exam:

- **4:** Student identified the author, title, and three ways in which the quotation relates to the issue (assessed as “advanced”).
- **3:** Student identified the author, title, and two ways in which the quotation relates to the issue (assessed as “proficient”).
2: Student identified the author or title and one way in which the quotation relates to the issue (assessed as “partially proficient”).

1: Student did not identify the author or title or any ways in which the quotation relates to the issue (assessed as “not proficient”).