

American Studies

Guidelines for Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion

(Adopted December 2009; revised September 2014)

All candidates should consult the Faculty Handbook for policies and procedures bearing on tenure and promotion decisions.

I. Statement of Expectations for Reappointment

The American Studies Department expects a candidate for reappointment to present evidence of significant progress on a research and publication program since arriving at Wesleyan that will meet the requirements specified in the Department's statement on expectations for promotion to associate professor with tenure (see below). A strong case for reappointment might include making substantial progress towards completing a book manuscript, having an article well on its way to or completing--ideally with grant support--significant post-dissertation research. Evidence of engagement with the broader scholarly community in forms such as conference presentations, participation in professional associations, and collaborative work will strengthen the scholarly component of a candidate's case.

The Department expects the candidate to demonstrate commitment to and excellence in teaching. Course syllabi should display thoughtful and stimulating design appropriate to the level and type of the course. The Department expects the candidate's roster of courses to include the range from seminars to lecture/discussion courses to tutorials. The candidate's teaching evaluations should show strong evidence of effective teaching in quantitative terms; remarks in the narrative section should demonstrate that students have learned from and appreciated the candidate's courses and teaching. The candidate's statement on teaching should include evidence of an effort to address any significant student concerns, should there be any.

The Department expects the candidate for reappointment to have participated actively in the work and the intellectual life of the Department and the University. We also value contributions to the broader professional field of American Studies.

II. Statement of Expectations for Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure

The American Studies Department ordinarily expects a candidate for tenure to present a completed book or book manuscript of high quality, based on original research, and ready for outside review at the time specified for submission of the tenure dossier. In all cases (a book published by a university press, a manuscript not yet published, or a book published by a commercial press), the evaluation of excellence will rely on assessments offered by the external referees as well as those of the tenured members of the Department. Scholars working in a field where monograph publication is not necessarily a privileged genre for scholarship should present evidence of equivalent original research and publication in the form

of articles, essays, exhibition catalogues, electronic publication or other formats accessible for review. The Department's commitment to supporting and valuing non-traditional scholarship includes a commitment to identifying external referees qualified to evaluate such scholarship. While we appreciate the potential usefulness of peer review as an indicator of scholarly achievement, we do not assume that only peer-reviewed publications constitute a record of scholarly excellence. In addition to the completed materials in the dossier, it is expected that the candidate for tenure will document, in a detailed research statement, significant planning or progress on her or his prospective research program. Such documentation could include research grant applications, conference or other public presentations on a new project, and/or written works in progress. Evidence of engagement with the broader scholarly community in forms such as conference presentations, participation in professional associations, and collaborative work will strengthen the scholarly component of a candidate's case, as would contributions as an American Studies public intellectual.

We recommend that the candidate be in regular communication with her or his mentor regarding the pace, quantity, and quality of the scholarly record.

The Department expects the candidate to demonstrate commitment to and excellence in teaching. Course syllabi should display thoughtful and stimulating design appropriate to the level and type of the course. The Department expects the candidate's roster of courses to include the range from seminars to lecture/discussion courses to tutorials. The candidate's teaching evaluations should show strong evidence of effective teaching in quantitative terms; remarks in the narrative section should demonstrate that students have learned from and appreciated the candidate's courses and teaching. The candidate's statement on teaching should include evidence of an effort to address any significant student concerns, should there be any.

The Department values and expects active and engaged participation in the work and intellectual life of the Department and the University as evidence of excellent collegiality. We also value contributions to the broader professional field of American studies.

III. Statement of Expectations for Promotion to Professor

The American Studies Department ordinarily expects a candidate for promotion to professor to present a book or book manuscript of high quality, completed since tenure, based on original research, and ready for outside review at the time specified for submission of the promotion dossier. In all cases (a book published by a university press, a manuscript not yet published, or a book published by a commercial press), the evaluation of excellence will rely on assessments offered by the external referees as well as those of the full professors in the Department. Scholars working in a field where monograph publication is not necessarily a privileged genre for scholarship should present evidence of equivalent original research and publication, completed since tenure, in the form of articles, essays, exhibition catalogues, electronic publication or other formats accessible for review. The Department's commitment to supporting and valuing non-traditional scholarship includes a commitment to identifying external referees qualified to evaluate such scholarship. While we appreciate the potential usefulness of peer

review as an indicator of scholarly achievement, we do not assume that only peer-reviewed publications constitute a record of scholarly excellence. In addition to the completed materials in the dossier, it is expected that the candidate for promotion will document, in a detailed research statement, significant planning or progress on a prospective research program. Such documentation could include research grant applications, conference or other public presentations on a new project, and/or written works in progress. Evidence of engagement with the broader scholarly community in forms such as conference presentations, participation in professional associations, and collaborative work will strengthen the scholarly component of a candidate's case, as would contributions made as an American Studies public intellectual.

The Department expects the candidate to demonstrate continued commitment to and excellence in teaching. The teaching record should display performance consistent with that which formed a part of the candidate's case for tenure.

The Department expects continued active and engaged participation, post-tenure, in the work and intellectual life of the Department and the University. We also value contributions to the broader professional field of American Studies.

Approved by the Advisory Committee on January 23, 2015.