

# **Languages Department Assessment of Major Courses**

## **I. Mission Statement**

The mission of the Languages Department is to teach students languages, literatures, and cultures essential for participation in our multi-lingual world of social diversity, global markets, and international collaboration in the sciences and the humanities. The presence of international students on campus is a strong indicator that the University of North Dakota recognizes the importance of developing and maintaining a global educational focus. Accordingly, as part of its mission, the Department offers a variety of courses and programs in the belief that the study of world languages, literatures, and cultures has a value which is both intrinsic and practical, and which is a vital component of the overall learning experience provided by UND. Developing programs of study abroad, promoting scholarly and creative efforts in its areas of expertise, and serving as a key resource on which the University may draw as it continues to internationalize the curriculum are further important aspects of the Department's mission.

## **II. Student Learning Goals**

The Languages Department offers majors in Classical Studies, French, German, Norwegian and Russian. At the culmination of study for a major in one of the languages, students will have met the common three goals:

Goal 1: Demonstrate proficiency in the target language

Goal 2: Demonstrate knowledge of literatures in the target language

Goal 3: Demonstrate knowledge of target language culture(s)

## **III. Objectives**

The goals for each objective are all-inclusive. As each language unit has different emphases, it is up to the faculty in each language unit to agree on which of the objectives for each student learning goal best meets the needs of their individual programs of study.

Objective 1.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the grammar of the target language

Objective 1.2 Speak comprehensibly and at an appropriate level in the target language

Objective 1.3 Comprehend written and spoken texts in the target language

Objective 1.4 Produce clear, well-organized and comprehensible writing in the target language

Objective 2.1 Critically read and interpret a variety of literary texts in the target language

Objective 2.2 Identify and know the significance of important target language authors and works

Objective 2.3 Know the history of the target language literature(s)

- Objective 3.1 Know significant historical and cultural milestones associated with the target language
- Objective 3.2 Identify and know the significance of important historical and cultural figures associated with the target language
- Objective 3.3 Know the geography of the region(s) where the target language is used
- Objective 3.4 Critically analyze differences between U.S. culture and target language culture(s)

#### **IV. Courses and Experiences**

Goal 1: Demonstrate proficiency in the target language

Classical Studies

French 302, 304, 413, 491

German 408, 413

Norwegian 432

Spanish 304, 308, 309, 450, 461

Goal 2: Demonstrate knowledge of literatures in the target language

Classical Studies 301, 362, 364, 404

French 371, 372, 373, 491

German 404, 406

Norwegian 403, 433, 434

Spanish 307, 410, 411, 414, 420, 421, 422, 423, 462

Goal 3: Demonstrate knowledge of target language culture(s)

Classical Studies 185

French 305, 306, 307, 491

German 312, 403, 409

Norwegian 432

Spanish 310, 311, 462

#### **V. Methods**

Each faculty member within a language unit is required to implement assessment.

Methods will vary by course, by language, and by individual faculty member, however, each language unit will determine what meets proficiency in each of the three goals and their corresponding objectives.

#### **VI. Timeline**

Courses will be assessed, where possible, on a three-year rotational basis. Courses that fall within goal 1, will be assessed the first year; goal 2 courses will be assessed the second year; courses within goal 3 will be assessed the third year. Since many of the courses in the lesser-taught languages are on an “on demand” basis or are taught on a rotational basis within the unit, not all courses will be assessed within their slated year.

#### **VII. Collection, Analysis, Interpretation, Documentation**

The faculty member within each language unit who is the instructor of record will be responsible for all collection, analysis, interpretation and documentation. In multi-person

language units, colleagues will share findings and discuss areas that seem to be deficient with the goal of implementing changes in both upper-division and lower-division courses where deemed necessary.