

2008

Mission

The mission of the Department of German, Russian and Classical Studies is to provide students with the adequate proficiency to study the original texts of the German, Russian and Classical literature, to reach an acceptable level of fluency (as far as spoken German and Russian are concerned), and to enhance their understanding of the respective cultural and historical contexts.

Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: *Students majoring in group languages (i.e. German and/or Russian, in conjunction with another language) will acquire the linguistic fluency which will prepare them for graduate study or professional work for which the knowledge of the language and culture might be essential*

Outcome 1: Students will demonstrate a firm knowledge of the grammatical structures and the basic vocabulary.

Outcome 2: Students will reach a minimal fluency in German and Russian

Course alignment: German 101(I) and 102 (I), Russian 101(I) and 102 (I).

Goal 2: *Students will acquire a suitable level of their language skills (advanced for German, intermediate for Russian) grammar, expanded vocabulary, stylistic characteristics) which will enable them to read more difficult texts and be prepared for a semester (or year) at a German or Russian university*

Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate a suitable level of their reading skills (advanced for German, intermediate for Russian)

Outcome 4: Students will demonstrate a suitable level of their writing skills (advanced for German, intermediate for Russian)

Outcome 5: Students will demonstrate advanced conversational skills in German, intermediate conversational skills in Russian)

Course alignment: German 201(I) and 202(D); Russian 201(I) and 202(D)

Goal 3: *Students majoring in GRCS will become familiar with the German and Russian/Soviet literary and cultural traditions, since the 18th century, with an emphasis on the 20th and 21st centuries*

Outcome 6: Students will demonstrate that they can read, discuss and write about at least one major period in German or Russian/Soviet culture

Outcome 7: Students will demonstrate that they can read, discuss and write about some of the major issues in German or Russian/Soviet culture

Course alignment: in German: advanced course, either G 232(D) or 273(D); in Russian R 272, 274, 278 or other 200 course(D)

Goal 4: *Students majoring in GRCS acquire the ability to deal critically with a topic in German or Russian culture/literature*

Outcome 8: Students demonstrate that they know how to analyze a given topic or problem in an historical context

Course alignment: German 370 (or 397) (M); Russian 270, or 274, or 397(M)

Goal 5: *Students develop the ability to conduct research in German or Russian literature/culture*

Outcome 9: German students demonstrate that they can do research on their own, read the pertinent secondary literature and write about it in the target language; Russian students demonstrate that they can do research on their own and read some of the sources in the target language.

Course alignment: Advanced course, in German: G 370 (changing topic)(M) and/or G/R 397(Independent study)(M)

Course/Program Alignmen

As your goals and outcomes have become clear, one needs to make sure that courses/curriculum are actually "aligned" with them. Please discuss how where your outcomes will be introduced, developed and practiced with feedback, and demonstrated at their highest levels. **Make sure that the role of your comprehensive requirement is fully discussed and designate which outcomes will be assessed with the comprehensive.** You do not have to hand in this matrix or even use it as given, but

Implementation of Assessment: The Plan

Responsibility for implementing the assessment lies with the entire department. Confident that outcomes are reflected in actual coursework of your major/program, describe the mechanisms for assessment. Think of assessing your outcomes on a 4 or 5 year cycle. (If you have 10 outcomes assessing 2 a year is ideal.) This part of your assessment plan must include the answers to the following questions:

Cycle of Assessment

AY 2006/7: Goal 1 / German/Russian 102: German and Russian use two different written tests as basis, one after ca. 5 weeks, the other after 12 weeks. Categories of testing: grammar, vocabulary. Classification: Exceptionally competent, competent, minimally competent. Oral exam: excellent, major progress, minimal progress.

AY 2007/8: Goal 2 / German/Russian 201 and 202; one test from each course; three writing examples; ten minute oral test (by conversation between instructor and student).

The testing is done by the faculty member in German and in Russian.

AY 2008/9: Goal 3 /German/Russian (232, 270 or 273); one paper (minimum 4-5 pages) from each semester; one quiz from each semester

The testing is done by the faculty members in German and Russian

AY 2009/10: Goal 4 / German/Russian. Course on the advanced level. TBD: probably German 370 and Russian 278. One research paper in each semester.

The testing is done by the faculty members in German and in Russian

AY 2010/11: Goal 5 / German/Russian. Comps research and thesis

Which outcomes will be assessed in every year of that cycle? The exams for the comprehensive requirements (be it German/Russian or any other combination with either German or Russian) will be assessed every year. Goals: Language competency (classification: excellent, good, sufficient), b) reading and subject knowledge (classification: excellent, good, sufficient), c) original research perspective.

What will be assessed THIS year, so that some assessment will be done in time for your departmental annual report 08/09? Goal 3, outcomes 6 and 7

Who will do the assessment? Who is going to do it this year? The faculty members teaching the courses to be assessed will undertake the assessment for the specified outcomes in the year indicated.

The basis for assessment will be: a) test scores for midterms, finals, or major tests (in courses on the 100 level, and in G/R 201, 202); classification: excellent, good, sufficient. b) a selection of quizzes, on the 100 and 200/level. Classification: excellent, good, sufficient, c) a selection of short essays, from courses of the 200 and 300-level. Classification: excellent, good, sufficient. d) all research papers, from courses on the upper 200-level and 300-level: Classification: Excellent, good, sufficient.

The Department will meet twice, in February, and in May, at the end of the academic year, in order to discuss the assessment procedures and prepare for upcoming reports.

Departmental Support

All members have discussed the various versions and made the necessary revisions. The process started in 2005/2006 when we met frequently to prepare the detailed assessment report for the outside evaluators. This first internal and external assessment was very helpful in the process.

At present, there is one tenured member in GRCS, plus two adjunct professors who will be supporting the assessment process.

In order to reach the highest standards of teaching and fulfill the goals and outcomes of the outlined assessment procedures, it is highly desirable to a) add an additional faculty to the German section (at least part-time) and to re-institute the German major, b) to make the Russian position permanent, c) make the position in Classics full-time. (See the strong recommendations by the panel of outside evaluators in 2006).