

**COVER SHEET  
OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT REPORT  
2008-2009**

Languages & Culture	Spanish	BA
<b>Department</b>	<b>Program (major or minor)</b>	<b>(Degree)</b>

Veronica Saunero-Ward		June 1, 2009
<b>Assessment Coordinator (Print)</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

Julia B. Grinstein		June 1, 2009
<b>Program Chair (Print)</b>	<b>Signature</b>	

## **I. Institutional Mission**

“New Mexico Highlands University is committed to programs that focus on its multiethnic student body, especially the rich heritage of Hispanic and Native American cultures that are distinctive of the State of New Mexico. The university clearly perceives that its success depends upon an appreciation of the region’s cultural and linguistic identities ... the university recognizes the increasing importance of the Spanish language in the global community and takes advantage of its environment, location and student population to promote the development of inter-disciplinary programs involving the Hispanic world ... aspires to develop broadly literate students and leaders, educated in analytical and critical thought.”

## **II. Departmental Mission**

Because of its location the discipline of Languages and Culture is committed to the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of the unique multicultural heritage of the region and thus it recognizes the importance of Spanish language and culture in the local and global community. It develops an understanding to the linguistic diversity, wealth of literature, and the plurality of cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking peoples around the world.

### **Discipline’s/ Program’s Goal(s) in Support of Institutional Mission:**

- A graduate of this program will be versed in the rich heritage of the Hispanic culture of the State of New Mexico and of the Hispanic world at large.
- A graduate of this program will have mastered near-native fluency in the Spanish language.
- A graduate of this program will have acquired an understanding of the literary traditions of the Hispanic southwest, Latin America, and Spain.

### **Intended Educational (Student) Outcome I:**

Students should be able to understand and speak Spanish with near-native proficiency.

#### **Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome:**

An exit interview takes place where two faculty members assess the student’s fluency. An evaluation form has been prepared to rate from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) the student’s use of grammar structures, from simple to complex; vocabulary from familiar to sophisticated; oral expression and comprehension from denotative use to connotative use of the target language.

#### **Data Results**

No data were gathered.

#### **Use of Results**

No data were gathered.

### **Intended Educational Outcome 2**

Students should be able to understand Spanish literary, journalistic, and otherwise specialized written texts and produce similar ones at near-native proficiency.

#### **First Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

A placement exam at a beginning-low intermediate level will assist faculty in placing students at the appropriate level.

### **Second Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

The capstone course, SPAN 325 Spanish for Written Communication consists of extensive readings, reading-comprehension exercises, and weekly essays. Criterion level: 70 % or better.

#### **Data Results**

Fall: No data were gathered.

Spring: 60 % met the criterion level.

#### **Use of Results**

- Faculty centralized the teaching of first-year Spanish in order to homogenize and improve quality of instruction.
- Faculty has introduced in the curriculum SPAN 3/454 Creative Writing Workshop in Spanish to enhance students' writing skills, and develop an interest for literary genres conducive to take courses in literature.

### **Third Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

SPAN 495 Senior Year Paper. This directed, individualized study is required of all Spanish majors. It consists of in-depth study of a major author or authors, school, genre, or tradition of Hispanic literature. Another topic of choice might be different aspects of Hispanic culture. Students must demonstrate advanced analytical and research skills.

#### **Data Results**

No data were gathered.

#### **Use of Results**

No data were gathered.

### **Intended Educational Outcome 3**

Students should acquire in-depth knowledge of the multiple aspects that shaped the cultures of the Hispanic world.

#### **Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

Three capstone courses: SPAN 431 Spain: Civilization and Culture, SPAN 432 Latin America: Civilization and Culture, and SPAN 433 New Mexico and the Southwest: Civilization and Culture include comprehensive exams, oral presentations and research papers that reflect the student's understanding of the subject matter. Criterion level: 70 % or better.

#### **Data Results**

Fall: No data were gathered.

Spring: 80 % met the criterion level.

#### **Use of Results**

- Faculty has introduced in the curriculum SPAN 2/3/491 Travel Study Topics for students who participated in Spanish Immersion Programs in Nicaragua, Mexico (Oaxaca and Ciudad Juarez), and Spain. This course provides the opportunity to further develop research projects on topics studied abroad.

### **Intended Educational Outcome 4**

Student should have an understanding of the literary traditions of Spain, Latin American and the Hispanic southwest. Student should demonstrate increasing critical and analytical awareness while studying a literary text.

**Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

The newly restructured SPAN 460 Hispanic Literature of the SW, SPAN 470 Chic@no Literature of the Southwest, SPAN 481 Spanish Literature I: Middle Ages to 1700, Spanish Literature II: 1700 to Present, SPAN 483 Latin-American Literature I: Colonial to 1900, and SPAN 484 Latin-American Literature II: 1900 to Present are capstones for this outcome.

Students have to prove an understanding of traditional and current critical approaches by submitting reports on theoretical articles and produce analytical essays on a variety of texts representatives of each period and/or genre. Criterion level: 70 % or better.

**Data Results**

None

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### **Language Learning Center**

Twenty-five computers with multimedia capabilities were purchased for the LLC.

Corresponding work stations were also purchased. They are designed to insulate each student from the others, permitting audio/aural activities. The Languages & Culture faculty will utilize the new equipment for:

- Administering placement exams in SSL, SHL, and Navajo in an organized manner.
- Conducting classes where students will work on a variety of drills exercises with immediate feedback under the close supervision of the instructor.

Considering that incoming students demonstrate an increasing affinity for technology and prefer this medium as a learning tool, the Languages & Culture faculty has introduced the following technological tools to the classroom:

- Hybrid language courses via Blackboard
- E-textbooks

In order to reach potential language students at the centers NMHU has in Farmington, Española/ Santa Fe, Rio Rancho/Albuquerque, and Raton, the Languages & Culture faculty is planning to introduce online teaching. Future plans include incorporating Blackboard, Elluminate and ITV courses which will serve all NMHU students via distance learning, and help building up a stronger department.