

# Assessment Report

Languages & Literature

Major

---

<b>Academic Discipline</b>	<b>(Degree Level)</b>
2009-2010	September 28, 2010

---

<b>Period Covered</b>	<b>Date Submitted</b>
-----------------------	-----------------------

## MISSION AND GOALS

### **Discipline 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. Thus, it recognizes the importance of the Spanish and Native American presence in the local and global community. The discipline further strives to integrate other foreign languages along with their respective culture and literatures.

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

- A graduate of this program will have mastered near-native fluency in the Spanish language.
- 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 acquired an understanding of the literary traditions of the global Hispanic community, 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 the student's advisor, along with other faculty members, assesses the student's fluency, the use of grammar structures, from simple to complex; linguistic and cultural knowledge; cultural and literary awareness.

### **Data Results**

No data were gathered.

### **Use of Results**

No Spanish majors graduated this year. However, the faculty is introducing the following innovations that will prepare the student for this final interview:

- Once they declare Spanish as their major, students will be recorded and/or videotaped holding an informal conversation with their advisers.
- Faculty will experiment with one-to-one and group formats for this interview.
- This activity will be repeated every year to document the students' improvement in their oral expression and comprehension.

## **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.

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

The capstone course, **Sp 325 Spanish for Written Communication** consists of extensive readings, reading-comprehension exercises, and weekly essays.

### **Data Results**

Data demonstrated that students do not have enough practice in reading and writing in Spanish. Ten of ten received an evaluation of C or better.

### **Use of Results**

The following adjustments are in progress to provide the students with more opportunities to improve their grammar skills:

- Faculty centralized the teaching of first-year Spanish in order to improve quality and consistency of instruction. We have implemented a variety of courses and topics which will allow for the students to utilize their critical thinking skills.
- A data bank will gather samples of all types of exercises created by the faculty throughout the years. These exercises will be administered electronically and all faculty members will have immediate access to the material.
- Faculty will re-introduce **Sp 202 Intermediate Spanish** to provide the students with more opportunities to improve their grammar skills.

- Faculty will modify **Sp 325** so it becomes a fourth-year course (**Sp 4XX**) and **Sp 400 Advanced Grammar** will become a third-year course (**SP 3XX**). This will allow students to take advanced grammar at an earlier stage in their degree.
- Introducing technology in the classroom has become an important part of language teaching. Faculty is launching blogs and chat rooms, as well as utilizing Blackboard to increment student's written production, reading skills practice, and overall creativity.

## **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: **Sp 431 Spain: Civilization and Culture; Sp 432 Latin America: Civilization and Culture**, and **Sp 433 New Mexico and the Southwest: Civilization and Culture** include comprehensive exams and research papers that reflect the student's understanding of the subject matter.

### **Data Results**

SPAN 435 México y Oaxaca: Civ. y Cult.(SPAN 432): 2 students

2 out of 2 received an evaluation of "C" or better.

SPAN 535 México y Oaxaca: Civ. y Cult.(SPAN 532): 13 Students

12 out of 13 received an evaluation of "C" or better.

1 out of 13 was categorized as "non-gradable".

SPAN 433/533 NM & SW: 7 Students

3 out of 7 received an evaluation of "C" or better.

3 out of 7 received an incomplete.

1 out of 7 audited the class.

### **Use of Data Results**

Faculty are considering the following programs to increase cultural awareness among students:

- Community service as a means to experience different cultural settings
- An electronic pen-pal program with university students from the United States, Latin American countries, and Spain
- Reinstate a *Festival de la Cultura* showcasing different regions of the country where Spanish is spoken
- Virtual guest speaker will be invited via Skype
- Implement Noches de Cine for the campus community where we showcase different Latin American and Spanish films and documentaries focusing on issues that affect the Spanish-speaking communities.

## **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**

During the last semester of residency prior to graduation, all Spanish majors will submit a Senior paper where the students must demonstrate analytical and research skills acquired in the course of their studies.

### **Use of Data Results**

Faculty will modify the major so it begins at the 300-level. This change will make us consistent with other Spanish majors across the country while increasing the number of elective courses students can choose without adding to the total amount of credits.

The faculty are proposing a reading club, open to the community, with an online presence to encourage reading in Spanish outside the classroom.