

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PLAN B.A. IN EUROPEAN STUDIES**

October 2016

### **Program Goals for Majors**

European Studies provides a cohesive, interdisciplinary program of study in the arts, history, languages, and societies of Europe that prepares students to be informed and engaged global citizens. The program also endeavors to equip majors for careers in diverse fields, ranging from education and international business to law and diplomacy.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Graduating seniors will be able to:

1. Discuss diverse time periods, cultures, and societies within Europe and display an understanding of the complexity of historical and contemporary European societies as well as an appreciation of the linguistic, artistic, and/or literary traditions of Europe.
2. Read widely and critically in order to recognize and understand the changing economic, political, and cultural dynamics across and within European societies.
3. Demonstrate proficient reading, writing, and speaking ability in a European language other than English. Proficiency will be demonstrated by the successful completion of five semesters of university-level coursework (or the equivalent).

4. Develop strategies to maintain the attitudes, knowledge, and skills required to be interculturally competent global citizens. These include demonstrating cultural self-awareness, culture-specific knowledge, deep cultural knowledge, and sociolinguistic awareness.
5. Conduct research in European Studies—including the ability to design analytical and significant research questions, to find and critically examine source material, and to construct an interpretation that answers the original question—and communicate knowledge and explanations in well-organized, logical, engaging, and grammatically correct prose.

## **Assessment Procedure**

### Measures: Direct Assessment

In IDS 212, Europe Today, all students will write a 10-page paper focused on contemporary European societies (outcome 2). In IDS 312, Senior Seminar, majors will produce a portfolio that includes: a) the 20-page research paper (exclusive of bibliography and footnotes) that serves as the major requirement of the seminar (outcome 5); b) one paper written in their History/Politics elective classes (outcome 1); c) one paper or artifact from their Arts/Humanities electives (outcome 2); and the journal or reflective essay from their study abroad experience (outcome 4). Proficiency in a non-English European language is measured in one of two ways: a) an oral interview and written response to a set of three questions after the student has completed the ISU language sequence or a study abroad program; or b) the student can demonstrate proficiency by having passed one of the various examinations used in many European countries for such equivalent assessment (outcome 3).

### Uses of the Information

In even years, the European Studies Assessment Committee will collect IDS 212 papers from all sections taught in the program. The Committee will evaluate a sample of 212 papers in two categories, using a rubric that scores the papers on a 1-5 scale, in order to measure performance in the Student Learning Outcomes listed above:

Knowledge of the complexity and dynamics of European societies (Outcome 1,2)  
Communication (Outcome 5)

In odd years, the Committee will also collect student portfolios in all IDS 312 sections and evaluate a sample of them. Rubrics with a 1-5 scale will be used to analyze performance in the Student Learning Outcomes in the following manner:

- A) Research Paper
  - Research (Outcome 5)
  - Communication (Outcome 5)
  - Knowledge (Outcome 1,2)
- B) History/Politics Elective Paper
  - Ability to discuss diverse time periods [History papers] (Outcome 1)
  - Understanding of historical complexity of Europe [History] (Outcome 1)
  - Understanding of contemporary complexity of Europe [Politics] (Outcome 1)
  - Understanding of political dynamics [Politics] (Outcome 2)
- C) Arts/Humanities Elective Paper or Artifact
  - Appreciation of Europe's artistic, linguistic, literary traditions (Outcome 1)
- D) Study Abroad Journal or Essay
  - Intercultural Competence (Outcome 4)

In all years the Assessment Committee will collect results of the language proficiency examinations.

The Committee will then report on the results to the Director, who will forward the report to core and affiliated faculty members. The report will include recommendations for action to improve the program's performance in achieving its desired student learning outcomes. At a subsequent meeting, the faculty will discuss the findings generated by the assessment exercise and deliberate as to what actions to take, if any, to improve curriculum, instruction, and learning.

### Measures: Indirect Assessment

European Studies will issue a survey to all majors in both IDS 212 and IDS 312 that provides data for specific questions pertaining to student satisfaction, the quality of the curriculum and instruction, and so on. In addition, all students in IDS 312, the required senior seminar, will complete for their portfolios a 500-word self-assessment of their experience in the major. They will be instructed to discuss what they hoped to achieve by majoring in European Studies at ISU; what they accomplished or failed to accomplish and why; which activities, both positive and negative, contributed most to their education; how well they have developed intellectually in the major (outcomes 1, 2, and 3); and what their career plans are. Finally, the Assessment Committee will also review the results of the Assessment Office's Alumni Survey.

### Uses of the Information

The data will be reviewed by the Assessment Committee every two years and summarized in a report to the Director, who will forward it to core and affiliated faculty. At a subsequent meeting, the faculty will discuss the findings generated by the assessment exercise, and deliberate as to what actions to take, if any, to improve curriculum, instruction, and learning.