

**Cornell College**  
**Departmental / Program Assessment Plan**  
Mission Statement, Learning Outcomes, and Learning Opportunities

Department / Program: Classical and Modern Languages  
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Date: May, 2011

**Mission Statement:**

Prepare students to be life-long learners with an appreciation for and sensitivity to other languages and literatures in their cultural and historical context and to acquire an understanding of themselves as participants in a global community.

**Goals:**

1. Challenge students' unexamined assumptions about other cultures and encourage them to reflect on their own cultural values, beliefs, and behaviors through an in-depth study/experience of another culture.<sup>1</sup> [ongoing]
2. Implement Capstones across language and literatures. [starting in 2012-13]
3. Redesign 205 level courses and implement changes. [starting in 2011-12]
4. Enhance upper level courses to include research projects prior to capstone.
5. Have 1/3 of departmental majors at least once in their career at Cornell present at Student Symposium or other public venue on or off campus.

**Intended Student Outcomes (3-5 recommended):**

*As a result of their experiences in our program, departmental majors will:*

1. Communicate effectively in the target language.

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<sup>1</sup> At a March department meeting, we brainstormed that one way to look at this is to see how many spanish, french, german, russian, and classics majors go off campus.

2. Explain the complexity and subtlety of language and literary discourse in social and political contexts by analysis of literature, documentary sources, art, film, music, material culture, etc. through creative or research projects.
3. Analyze cultural narratives, themes, and symbols in the target language
4. Demonstrate knowledge of research methods, tools, and practices specific to their field (Romance, Classics, Russian, German) and in the larger fields of humanistic inquiry by formulating research questions, carrying out a research plan, synthesizing primary and secondary sources in a variety of media, and communicating the results and conclusions of this research to others.

**Learning Outcomes and Opportunities:**

*How do the specified outcomes support the College’s Educational Objectives; and where are students provided opportunities that will help them achieve these outcomes.*

1. Continued Instruction in language through the 205 level [101-102-103-205]
2. Intermediate and Advanced language and literature courses in the target language and in translation at 200 and 300 levels;
3. Intermediate and Advanced courses dealing with specific aspects of a culture: literary genres; history of literature sequences; textual analysis; social, political, economic, or religious history;
4. Study abroad opportunities for intermediate and advanced language study as well as courses focused on history and literature in a specific cultural or historical context (Quebec, Morocco, Mexico, Bolivia, Spain, Italy, Greece, France, and Chicago);
5. Reading Groups and Adjunct Courses
6. Junior/Senior Seminars; Capstones

**Curriculum Map:**

<b>Intended Outcome 1</b>	<b>Intended Outcome 2</b>	<b>Intended Outcome 3</b>	<b>Intended Outcome 4</b>
Communicate effectively in the target language	Explain the complexity and subtlety of language and literary discourse in social and political contexts	Analyze cultural narratives, symbols, etc	Demonstrate research methods, etc.

<b>Educational Opportunity 1</b> Continued language instruction [the 101-205 experience]	<b>Introduce/ Reinforce</b>	<b>Introduce/ Reinforce</b>	<b>Introduce/ Reinforce</b>	<b>Introduce/ Reinforce</b>
<b>Educational Opportunity 2</b> Intermediate and Advanced language and literature courses in original and trans [200 and 300 level lang and lit]	<b>Reinforce/ Emphasize</b>	<b>Reinforce</b>	<b>Reinforce</b>	<b>Introduce/ Reinforce</b>
<b>Educational Opportunity 3</b> Intermediate and Advanced courses dealing with specific aspects of a culture [200 and 300 level culture and history in original and trans]	<b>Reinforce</b>	<b>Reinforce</b>	<b>Reinforce</b>	<b>Reinforce</b>
<b>Educational Opportunity 4</b> Study Abroad	<b>Reinforce/ Emphasize</b>	<b>Reinforce/ Emphasize</b>	<b>Reinforce/ Emphasize</b>	<b>Reinforce</b>
<b>Educational Opportunity 5</b> Reading groups/ adjunct courses	<b>Reinforce</b>			
<b>Educational Opportunity 6</b> Junior/Senior Seminars and Capstones	<b>Reinforce</b>	<b>Emphasize</b>	<b>Emphasize</b>	<b>Emphasize</b>

**Assessment Priorities:**

*Given our intended outcomes, the top 2-3 assessment priorities for our department/program are:*

1. For our department/program, the assessment priority will be the capstone experience in our majors.