Languages Department
Assessment of Major Courses

I. Mission Statement
The mission of the Languages Department is to teach students languages, literatures, and cultures essential for participation in our multi-lingual world of social diversity, global markets, and international collaboration in the sciences and the humanities. The presence of international students on campus is a strong indicator that the University of North Dakota recognizes the importance of developing and maintaining a global educational focus. Accordingly, as part of its mission, the Department offers a variety of courses and programs in the belief that the study of world languages, literatures, and cultures has a value which is both intrinsic and practical, and which is a vital component of the overall learning experience provided by UND. Developing programs of study abroad, promoting scholarly and creative efforts in its areas of expertise, and serving as a key resource on which the University may draw as it continues to internationalize the curriculum are further important aspects of the Department’s mission.

II. Student Learning Goals
The Languages Department offers majors in Classical Studies, French, German, Norwegian and Russian. At the culmination of study for a major in one of the languages, students will have met the common three goals:
  Goal 1: Demonstrate proficiency in the target language
  Goal 2: Demonstrate knowledge of literatures in the target language
  Goal 3: Demonstrate knowledge of target language culture(s)

III. Objectives
The goals for each objective are all-inclusive. As each language unit has different emphases, it is up to the faculty in each language unit to agree on which of the objectives for each student learning goal best meets the needs of their individual programs of study.
  Objective 1.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the grammar of the target language
  Objective 1.2 Speak comprehensibly and at an appropriate level in the target language
  Objective 1.3 Comprehend written and spoken texts in the target language
  Objective 1.4 Produce clear, well-organized and comprehensible writing in the target language
  Objective 2.1 Critically read and interpret a variety of literary texts in the target language
  Objective 2.2 Identify and know the significance of important target language authors and works
  Objective 2.3 Know the history of the target language literature(s)
Objective 3.1  Know significant historical and cultural milestones associated with the target language
Objective 3.2  Identify and know the significance of important historical and cultural figures associated with the target language
Objective 3.3  Know the geography of the region(s) where the target language is used
Objective 3.4  Critically analyze differences between U.S. culture and target language culture(s)

IV. Courses and Experiences
Goal 1: Demonstrate proficiency in the target language
   Classical Studies
   French    302, 304, 413, 491
   German    408, 413
   Norwegian 432
   Spanish   304, 308, 309, 450, 461
Goal 2: Demonstrate knowledge of literatures in the target language
   Classical Studies  301, 362, 364, 404
   French    371, 372, 373, 491
   German    404, 406
   Norwegian 403, 433, 434
   Spanish   307, 410, 411, 414, 420, 421, 422, 423, 462
Goal 3: Demonstrate knowledge of target language culture(s)
   Classical Studies  185
   French    305, 306, 307, 491
   German    312, 403, 409
   Norwegian 432
   Spanish   310, 311, 462

V. Methods
Each faculty member within a language unit is required to implement assessment. Methods will vary by course, by language, and by individual faculty member, however, each language unit will determine what meets proficiency in each of the three goals and their corresponding objectives.

VI. Timeline
Courses will be assessed, where possible, on a three-year rotational basis. Courses that fall within goal 1, will be assessed the first year; goal 2 courses will be assessed the second year; courses within goal 3 will be assessed the third year. Since many of the courses in the lesser-taught languages are on an “on demand” basis or are taught on a rotational basis within the unit, not all courses will be assessed within their slated year.

VII. Collection, Analysis, Interpretation, Documentation
The faculty member within each language unit who is the instructor of record will be responsible for all collection, analysis, interpretation and documentation. In multi-person
language units, colleagues will share findings and discuss areas that seem to be deficient with the goal of implementing changes in both upper-division and lower-division courses where deemed necessary.