

Assessment Report
Academic Year 2019-20
French Studies
Major

I. Logistics

1. The feedback should be sent to Matthew Motyka, Program Director, mjmotyka@usfca.edu, Karen Bouwer, French Studies Faculty Member, bouwerk@usfca.edu, Anne Mairesse, French Studies Faculty Member, mairesse@usfca.edu.
2. We have evaluated PLOs 4, 5, 6 for the major, based on the data collected from the same students (minus one in one course) in two different courses (FREN 324 and 332). We will submit a PLO for the minor next year—we had difficulties collecting data for the minor after switching to online instruction.

PLOs	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Express info verbally	Write using disciplinary conventions	Comprehend oral discourse	Analyze cultural phenomena	Identify artistic & cultural figures	Appreciate social cultural diversity
FREN 133	D		D		I	I
FREN 195 (Cuisine)						
FREN 195 (Congo)						
FREN 250						
FREN 260						
FREN 340						
FREN 202	D	D	D	I	I	D
FREN 255	D	I	D	D	I	D
FREN 265	D	I	D	I	I	D
FREN 275	D	I	D	I	D	D
FREN 312	D	D	D			I
FREN 313	D	D	D			I
FREN 315	D	D	D	D	D	D
FREN 320	D	D	D	D	D	D
FREN 322	D	D	D	D	D	D
FREN 324	D	D	D	D	D	D
FREN 330	D	D	D	D	D	D
FREN 332	D	D	D	D	D	D
FREN 440	M	M	M	M	M	M
FREN 450	M	M	M	M	M	M

3. Curricular Map (no changes from the past year).

MAJOR

(I=introductory, D=developing, M=mastery).

MINOR

PLOs	1	2	3	6
	Express info verbally	Write using disciplinary conventions	Comprehend oral discourse	Appreciate social cultural diversity
FREN 133	D		D	I
FREN 195 (Cuisine)				
FREN 195 (Congo)				
FREN 250				
FREN 260				
FREN 340				
FREN 202	D	I	D	D
FREN 255	D	I	D	D
FREN 265	D	I	D	D
FREN 275	D	I	D	D
FREN 312	D	D	D	I
FREN 313	D	D	D	I
FREN 315	D	D	D	D
FREN 320	D	D	D	D
FREN 322	D	D	D	D
FREN 324	D	D	D	D
FREN 330	D	D	D	D
FREN 332	D	D	D	D
FREN 440	M	M	M	M
FREN 450	M	M	M	M

II. Mission Statement & Program Learning Outcomes

1. French Studies' mission statement derives directly from that of MCL. There has been **no** change in the mission statement since the last assessment. The major and the minor don't have a separate mission statement.

Mission Statement (MCL)

Inspired by the Statement of Mission of the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit and Catholic university, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages states as its essential objective to "offers students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as persons and professionals, and the values and sensitivity necessary to be men and women for others." The Department promotes language acquisition for academic and professional needs and promotes the multidisciplinary study of cultures and societies within our increasingly multicultural communities in order to foster sensitivity and openness to be of service to others.

The objective of the French Studies major is to provide oral and written competence in the language and a solid background in the literature and culture of the countries of the French-speaking world.

2. PLOs (**No** changes in the PLOs since the last report in October 2019)

Major:

1. Express information and opinions verbally in consistent, effective and clear French.
2. Write in French using the disciplinary conventions and methodologies of literary and cultural analysis.
3. Comprehend oral discourse produced by native speakers of French.
4. Analyze the main ideas of various cultural phenomena, such as literature, art, music, film and popular media.

5. Identify major artistic and cultural figures of the French-speaking world in the context of their historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions.

6. Appreciate the linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of the French-speaking world.

Minor:

1. Express information and opinions verbally in consistent, effective and clear French.

2. Write in French using the disciplinary conventions and methodologies of literary and cultural analysis.

3. Comprehend oral discourse produced by native speakers of French.

4. Appreciate the linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of the French-speaking world. (#6 for the major)

FRENCH STUDIES ASSESSMENT FALL 2020

III. Methodology

The method of assessment was direct. Professors Motyka and Bouwer met to draw up the rubrics and to evaluate the student responses.

Since we had 4 graduating majors in Spring 2020, we decided to map their performance across three PLOs in two of our classes.

Three of the students were enrolled in FREN 324 Guerre et paix (Motyka) and four of the students were enrolled in FREN 332 Rencontres: Le monde francophone (Bouwer).

The materials used for the assessment were:

- Final research papers (FREN 324)
- An essay question on a final exam (FREN 332)

For both the research papers and the essay questions, students focused on different topics. For the research papers for FREN 324, students were given a lot of freedom to choose their topics in conversation with the instructor. Their topics, all chosen within the context of the class

which focuses on 19th and 20th century France) ranged from an examination of how the Franco-Prussian War was represented in painting and literature, and an exploration of linguistics and semiotics in the works of Saussure and Barthes, to a reading of the death of God in Nietzsche and Bataille.

For the final exam essay questions in FREN 332, students examined the evolution of the French language and its coexistence with other languages in the French-speaking world, the diversity of the French language itself, the linguistic changes that accompanied various forms of migrations (to the Americas but also during colonization), and the historical, political, sociolinguistics and literary dimensions of “Francophone” literature.

We were working with an exceptional group of students who all performed exceptionally well. Anecdotally, we can report that both their written and oral French easily reached (and even exceeded) Intermediate-Mid or Intermediate-High levels of proficiency on the ACTFL scale but we are not assessing those outcomes here. They also demonstrated their ability to conduct independent research.

The three PLOs assessed here are:

4. Analyze the main ideas of various cultural phenomena, such as literature, art, music, film and popular media.

5. Identify major artistic and cultural figures of the French-speaking world in the context of their historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions.

6. Appreciate the linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of the French-speaking world.

Students	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6
1	S (324)		S (332)
2			S (332)
3		S (324 & 332)	S (332)
4		S (324)	S (332)

Student 2 who was enrolled in only one of the classes. The outcomes are therefore based on 7 pieces of work.

The coverage of the outcomes depends on the subject matter the students chose to work on. The classes as a whole had more coverage of PLOs 5 & 6 than is reflected here because of the materials selected (final assignments in both instances).

As can be seen from the graph which focuses on only two assignments, the courses offer good coverage of the three PLOs and all the students' work was ranked as Superior (S) in the categories they addressed in their work.

Explanation of criteria:

4. Analyze the main ideas of various cultural phenomena, such as literature, art, music, film and popular media.

Superior: Analyze main ideas in cultural phenomena, demonstrating how the medium shapes the transmission of the ideas, providing clear definitions and drawing on multiple supporting examples

Adequate: Analyze main ideas in cultural phenomena, with limited demonstration of how the medium shapes the transmission of ideas and drawing on a limited number of supporting examples

Inadequate: Present main ideas in cultural phenomena with little to no analysis, no demonstration of how the medium shapes the transmission of ideas, and limited number of supporting examples

5. Identify major artistic and cultural figures of the French-speaking world in the context of their historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions.

Superior: Identify one or more major artistic or cultural figures of the French-speaking world with detailed descriptions and analysis of historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions

Adequate: Identify one more or more major artistic or cultural figures of the French-speaking world with detailed descriptions but limited analysis of historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions

Inadequate: Identify one more or more major artistic or cultural figures of the French-speaking world with limited descriptions and limited to no analysis of historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions

6. Appreciate the linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of the French-speaking world.

Superior: Demonstrate understanding of the interactions among linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of the French-speaking world and providing extensive examples in support of arguments

Adequate: Demonstrate an understanding of linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of the French-speaking world but with limited analysis of intersectionality among various forms of diversity

Inadequate: Demonstrate limited or lack of understanding of the linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of the French-speaking world

Next year, we will be assessing oral performance for both Majors and Minors.