

Portuguese 331

Issues of the Contemporary World: Portuguese Culture and Society

Assessment Plan:

Portuguese 331 will be critically assessed in order to determine how well it is meeting the general principles and specific General Learning Objectives of its General Education Curriculum category (2. Breath; B. Arts and Humanities; (3) “Cultures and Ideas”; and also: 4 Diversity (2) International Issues/Non-Western or Global GEC Courses). Assessment will take place after the first quarter in which the course is taught and thereafter biennially.

Portuguese 331 will be assessed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese in consultation with the Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. The following procedures and indicators will be used in assessing the course:

- 1) Student SEIs
- 2) Written report of class visit by peer evaluator
- 3) Portfolio of sample student work
- 4) Review of current paper and presentation topics
- 5) Review of course syllabi for each time the course has been taught up to the point of the assessment.
- 6) Biennial assessment report to be submitted to ASC summarizing the results of the of the course assessment.

Items 3-5 will be maintained on file in the Department so that the progress of the course can be monitored and evaluated across time as the course evolves and to enable the department to address any major concerns or drift from the established goals and standards.

How Portuguese 331 meets the Expected Learning Outcomes of GEC 2. Breath; B. Arts and Humanities; (3) “Cultures and Ideas”

ASC GEC Expected Learning Outcomes Statement:

GEC 2. Breath; B. Arts and Humanities; (3) “Cultures and Ideas”

GEC Expected Learning Outcomes: Arts and Humanities

- Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.
 1. Students develop abilities to be informed observers or active participants in the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.
 2. Students describe and interpret creative work, and/or movements in the arts and literature.
 3. Students explain how works of art and writings explore the human condition.
- We will identify tenets and tendencies of the Portuguese culture (e.g., visual, performing, literary), and interpret these cultural manifestations historically and critically.
- We will gain insight into a variety of issues and viewpoints aimed to initiating a discussion of the identity of the Portuguese culture and its global imprint.

- To develop descriptive skills as well as critical perspectives on a variety of cultural expressions.
- By drawing on multiple disciplines, Portuguese Culture and Society coursework provides an academic experience that helps students enrich their understanding of the human condition.
- In this course, through readings from different disciplines students will develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment to experience artistic expressions that characterize the culture and society of Portugal, and the Portuguese-speaking world
- They will be required to prepare, for each class, and to present oral and written comments of the readings assigned every week. Students will be expected to improve their performance each week on these preliminary analyses, based on comments written on previous ones and in-class discussion, based on the analyses, which will oblige students to increase sophistication of their initial analyses and in-class comments.
- They will be required to conduct a bibliographic search on a topic of their choice related to Portuguese culture and society, and write a research paper which will be presented in class and submitted to the instructor in the last day. Throughout the entire process students will work under the guidance of the instructor.
- Assessment of the degree to which students demonstrate achievement of the objectives stated above will be made through observation of comments and small group discussion in class, and will be guided appropriately by instructor interventions. It will also be made based on performance of individual presentations. Final assessment will be made based on awareness and appreciation for the Arts and Humanities, and on the critical interpretation of cultures and ideas shown in their research papers.
- As stated above, under the guidance of the instructor students will be required to conduct a bibliographic search on a topic of their choice related to Portuguese culture and society. It is expected that the interdisciplinary approach of the class, combined with the critical analyses of a broad array of topics will enable the students to established comparisons that will result in a broader and deeper understanding of arts and humanities in the contemporary world. All work will be turned in and graded.