

Portuguese 597.01

Issues of the Contemporary World:

Coloniality and Postcoloniality in the Literatures of Portugal and Portuguese-speaking Africa

Assessment Plan:

Portuguese 597.01 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 (5. Issues of the Contemporary World. 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.

Port 597.01 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 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 Port 597 Meets the Expected Learning Outcomes of GEC 5. Issues of the Contemporary World

ASC GEC Expected Learning Outcomes Statement:
GEC 5. Issues of the Contemporary World

By drawing on multiple disciplines, Issues of the Contemporary World coursework provides a capstone experience that helps students attain and enrich their experiences of the contemporary world.

1. *Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.*
 - In this course students will learn how literary representations produced in colonial as well as postcolonial contexts contribute to shaping contemporary socialities

- and cultures. We will study these phenomena through examples of Portugal and its former African colonies, and, through supplemental readings issuing from disciplines such as history, sociology, anthropology and literary theory they will also learn how to establish relevant connections between contemporary postcolonial experiences of the Portuguese-speaking world and global issues of the contemporary world at large.
- For each class, students will be required to prepare a written report on the required reading assigned for that class, in which they synthesize the secondary reading and make several observations about the reading based on insights from that secondary text. They will turn this 1-page, single-spaced document in at the beginning of each class and instructor will grade it and hand it back at the start of the following class.
 - Students will be expected to improve their performance each week on these written reports, 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.
 - Two take-home (midterm and final) short essays, which will require students to combine and expand their work in the written reports, will assess the degree to which they have developed the ability to synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.
2. *Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between information derived from different disciplines by interacting with students from different majors.*
- We expect that this course will attract students from a variety of disciplines, such as African American and African Studies, International Studies, Portuguese, Spanish, History, Film Studies and English. The instructor will encourage students, during in-class discussion, small group work, and take-home exams, to bring to bear their personal experiences—including their disciplinary training—on the topic of the course.
 - Assessment of the degree to which students demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between information derived from different disciplines by interacting with students from different majors 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 within group presentations. Final assessment will be made based on relevant interdisciplinary awareness shown in the essays.
3. *Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary world.*
- As stated above, students will have to write regularly, from an interdisciplinary perspective, about a topic of broad relevance in the contemporary world (e.g., colonialism and its legacy), by way of examples from the culture of Portugal and Portuguese-speaking Africa, they will reflect on how literature represents identities, and provides strategies for negotiating and transforming identities within a given culture and in culture globally considered.
 - All work will be turned in and graded.