

Academic Assessment Plan

B.A. Program in European Studies

May 2016

Mission and Vision

One of five area studies programs in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, European Studies offers an academic major leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree. Students with an interest in the rapidly changing face of Europe may combine their work in a European language (currently Spanish, French, German, Italian, or Russian) with relevant courses from a wide range of disciplines, including Economics, Political Science, History, Philosophy, Literature, Geography and the Fine Arts. Each student's program is tailored to individual interests, but all participants achieve a working understanding of the historical, political, economic, and cultural forces shaping today's Europe

Program Goals

- **Content Focus:** Familiarize students with the cultures, economics, geographies, histories, and politics of the regions and states within modern Europe, while developing an understanding of Europe's past, present, and future role in global affairs.
- **Interdisciplinary Focus:** Teach students to adopt and apply an interdisciplinary perspective in order to understand how different academic fields work together to deepen our understanding of Europe;
- **Language Focus:** Train students to attain functional competency in at least one modern European language other than English.
- **Intercultural Focus:** Cultivate students' ability to apply their knowledge and skills in order to communicate, interact, and cooperate in meaningful and sensitive ways with people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, faiths, languages, and nationalities.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Demonstrate broad, interdisciplinary understanding of European cultures, economics, geographies, history, and politics through coursework in the European Studies core and through advanced courses in multiple humanities and social science fields.
2. Show their ability to think, research, and analyze critically through engagement with topical colloquia treating specific European issues and challenges;
3. Develop effective written and oral communications skills through coursework and by developing and presenting research projects in European Studies colloquia;
4. Build intercultural competencies through such high-impact practices as research, study abroad, internships, and service-learning.
5. Demonstrate functional competency in at least one modern world language other than English

Assessment of Student Learning

Direct Methods

- **EUST 2013 Introduction to Europe:** all European Studies majors and minors are required to take this course, which will deliver the content designated in Learning Outcome 1.
- **EUST 4003 European Studies Colloquium:** all European Studies majors and minors are required to enroll in at least one colloquium, which will take a topical approach to specific European issues and permit students to develop their critical thinking, research, writing, and speaking skills, as outlined in Learning Outcomes 2 and 3. The program expects that these outcomes will also be served by advanced courses in the major offered by other departments.
- **Advanced Language Courses:** all European studies majors and minors are required to complete two advanced courses in a European language (currently French, German, and Spanish). Successful completion of these courses will represent fulfillment of Learning Outcome 5.
- **Exit Survey (attached):** Graduating European Studies Majors will be asked to complete an exit survey assessing their participation in high-impact practices and measuring their sense of readiness for careers or graduate study in keeping with Learning Outcome 4.

Indirect Methods

- **Course Grades and Student GPA:** information on grades from EUST 2013 and EUST 4003 sections will allow the program to measure the quality of student learning in the European Studies core with respect to Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3. The program will also collect the overall GPAs of European studies seniors in order to measure their long-term academic attainment.
- **Honors Research Participation:** the program will collect information on graduating Honors students, including their research focus, topics, and honors level, to assess the depth and breadth of work completed by our top students (see Learning Outcome 4).
- **High-Impact Participation:** the program will collect information on all majors who participate in study-abroad and internship experiences to measure their attainment of Learning Outcomes 4 and 5.

Timeline for Assessment

- Instructors in EUST 2013 and EUST 4003 sections will report their course grade averages to the Director of European Studies at the end of each semester, and the Director will report those to the Dean of Fulbright College by June 1st each year.
- The Director of European Studies will send out the exit survey to seniors with expected graduation in March of each year and compile the results in May. The Director will compile the results for an annual assessment report to be submitted to the Fulbright Dean by 1 June.

Use of Results

- The Director of European Studies will include an analysis of the reported findings and recommend new strategies or curricular changes as suggested in the results.

European Studies Program Exit Survey

Term: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

1. My European Studies major has increased my general understanding of Europe and its role in world affairs.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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2. My European Studies major has increased my appreciation for European cultures

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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3. My European Studies major has increased my understanding of European economics

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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4. My European Studies major has increased my understanding of European geographies

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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5. My European Studies major has increasing my understanding of European history

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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My European Studies major has increased my understanding of European politics

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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How would you rate your spoken proficiency in your chosen European language?

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
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8. How would you rate your reading proficiency in your chosen European language?

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
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9. How would you rate your written proficiency in your chosen European language?

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
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10. Why did you choose to major in European Studies?
11. Which co-major(s) did you select in addition to European Studies?
12. To which country or countries did you study abroad as an undergraduate?
13. In which internships did you participate as an undergraduate?
14. In which service or extracurricular opportunities related to European Studies did you participate as an undergraduate?
15. What are your post-graduation plans?
16. To what extent did you European Studies major shape or otherwise help you prepare for your post-graduation plans?
17. What do you think are the strongest aspects of the European Studies Program?
18. What do you think are the weakest aspects of the European Studies Program?
19. Please provide any other comments on the European Studies major.