

**M.A. Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies**  
Plan for Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes  
The University of New Mexico

---

**A. College, Department and Date**

1. College: Arts and Sciences
2. Department: Foreign Languages and Literatures
3. Date: January 15, 2009

**B. Academic Program of Study**

M.A. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

**C. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plan**

Susanne Baackmann, Associate Professor of German, theodor@unm.edu  
Pamela Cheek, Associate Professor of French, pcheek@unm.edu

**D. Broad Program Goals & Measurable Student Learning Outcomes**

**1. Broad Program Learning Goals for this Degree/Certificate Program**

- A.** Students will provide nuanced and sophisticated discussions of literary and cultural works.
- B.** Students will conduct independent research in their field.
- C.** Students will be knowledgeable about the literary and cultural productions of communities in their areas of primary study in the past and present.
- D.** Students will be familiar with several major tendencies in critical and theoretical analysis.
- E.** Students will find and evaluate career and post-graduate opportunities that their degree makes possible.

**2. List of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for this Degree/Certificate Program**

- A.1.** Students can analyze literary and cultural texts through the lens of a theoretical paradigm.
- A.2.** Students can incorporate theoretical frameworks into their written and oral discussions of literary works.
- A.3.a. (comparative literature concentration only)** Students can communicate in writing and in conversation on an advanced level in a language other than English.
- A.3.b. (cultural studies concentration only)** Students demonstrate fluency with theoretical terms and modes of discussion.
- A.3.c. (classical studies concentration only)** Students can read and understand writing in either Greek or Latin on an advanced level.
- B.1.** Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.
- B.2.** Students can evaluate their findings.
- C.1.** Students can identify the significant literary and cultural productions of communities associated with their area of study in the past and present.

- C.2.** Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context.
- C.3.** Students can distinguish the characteristics of different schools and movements within a community’s production and in relation to neighboring communities or trends.
- D.1.** Students can demonstrate familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identify their principle theorists.
- D.2.** Students can read and understand works that engage with contemporary theory and cultural artifacts.
- E.1.** Students know how to search and apply for professional opportunities or advanced study related to the M.A. in their area of concentration.
- E.2.** Students participate in professional activities such as colloquia, conferences and meetings.

**E. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan**

All programs are expected to measure some outcomes annually and to measure all priority program outcomes at least once over two consecutive three-year review cycles. Describe below the plan for the next three years of assessment of program-level student learning outcomes.

**1. Student Learning Outcomes**

Relationship to UNM Student Learning Goals (insert the program SLOs and check all that apply):

<b>University of New Mexico Student Learning Goals</b>				
<b>Program SLOs</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Program SLO is conceptually different from university goals.</b>
<b>A.2.</b> Students can incorporate theoretical frameworks into their written and oral discussions of literary works.	XX			
<b>A.3. a.b. or c.</b> Student comprehension and usage of specialized languages or terms	XX	XX		
<b>B.1.</b> Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.	XX	XX		
<b>C.2.</b> Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context.	XX			
<b>C.3.</b> Students can distinguish the characteristics of different schools and movements within a community’s production and in relation to neighboring communities or trends.	XX			
<b>D.1.</b> Students can demonstrate familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identify their principle theorists.	XX			
<b>E.2.</b> Students participate in professional activities such as colloquia, conferences and meetings.		XX	XX	

## 2. How will learning outcomes be assessed?

### A. What:

i.

At the end of their course of study, M.A. students under plan I complete an oral exam, a thesis and an oral presentation of the thesis project. At the end of their course of study, M.A. students under plan II complete an oral exam, a written exam, and a research paper. The majority of students in the program choose Plan I. Assessment of A.2, A.3.a, b or c, C.2, C.3 and D.1 will occur in the oral exams. Assessment of A.2, B.1, C.2, C.3 and D.1 will be conducted on written thesis projects and research papers. Faculty will assess oral and written performance using evaluative questionnaires focused on skills A.2, B.1, C.2, C.3 and D.1 and ranking performance of skills on a 1-5 scale where 5 corresponds to excellence (see addenda 1-2 for questionnaires). Assessment of E.2 will occur through collection and evaluation of student curriculum vitae at the time of graduation. In addition, graduates will be asked to respond to a questionnaire about their current professional status every five years.

ii. *Indicate whether each measure is **direct** or **indirect**.*

A.2, A.3a, b or c, B.1, C.2, C.3, D.1: Direct measurement through evaluation of oral exam and evaluation of written thesis (Plan I) and written (Plan II) research papers.  
E.2: Indirect measure through student reporting on curriculum vitae of professional activity. The periodic questionnaire on current professional status is an indirect measure as well.

iii. *Briefly describe the **criteria for success**.*

A.2, A.3a, b or c, B.1, C.2, C.3, D.1: In overall averaging of scores on skills (in a range of 1-5), 100% of graduating M.A. students will receive an average of "3" or above and 80% of graduating M.A. students will receive an average of "4.5" or above.  
E.2. 80% of students will have participated in professional activities.

### B. Who:

The CL/CS M.A. program typically has one to four graduates per year. All graduating M.A. students will undergo assessment at the time of their oral exams and completion of research papers or master's theses. All faculty on CL/CS M.A. committees on studies (which sometimes includes faculty outside of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures) will participate in scoring A.2, A.3a, b or c, B.1, C.2, C.3, and D.1. The CL/CS program graduate advisor will assess collected curriculum vitae for E.2.

## 3. When will learning outcomes be assessed? When and in what forum will the results of the assessment be discussed?

Assessment will be conducted on every graduating M.A. student at the time of oral exams and submission of research papers and theses. These assessments will be kept with one copy in the student's file and one copy in a general CL/CS graduate program file. Evaluation of assessments will be conducted at the beginning of alternate Fall semesters, relying on the data from the prior four semesters, and beginning in Fall 2010. Collation of results and initial analysis is the

responsibility of the CL/CS program graduate advisor. This timeline will ensure that enough student performances will have been evaluated for the outcomes assessment to be meaningful (data on approximately 3 to 8 students will accrue over the period described).

Results will be discussed in a meeting of CL/CS faculty immediately after collation and initial analysis. CS/CL faculty will formulate a response to findings focused on adjustment of course offerings and coverage of knowledge and skill areas in the program as a whole. They will also consider adjustment of assessment plan, when necessary.

#### **4. What is the unit's process to analyze/interpret assessment data and use results to improve student learning?**

1. Members of a student's committee on studies will score performance of SLOs. The CL/CS graduate advisor will be responsible for collating and analyzing data resulting from scoring. CL/CS faculty will meet as a whole to interpret results and formulate curricular, course content and professional training modifications to the program, as well as to evaluate the outcomes assessment tools.

2. A report will be submitted by CL/CS faculty to the departmental Committee on Graduate Studies, composed of faculty representing each of the graduate programs in the department. The report will contain the raw data of results for SLOs, discussion of areas of achievement and areas of weakness, and a plan for modifications of the program or assessment tools, where needed. The Committee on Graduate Studies will consider the report in connection with the reports of the other graduate programs in the department (M.A. in German, M.A. in French, Ph.D. in French Studies) and provide an overall evaluation of graduate learning outcomes to the FLL faculty in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

Addendum 1:

I. Outcomes Assessment Scoring Sheet for CL/CS Oral Examination

Name of M.A. candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

Date of assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Year \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle an evaluation of student's performance of designated skill, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.*

**(A.2.)** Student incorporates a theoretical framework into oral discussions of a literary work:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

*(indicate whether A.3a, A.3b, or A.3c is applicable)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **A.3.a. (comparative literature concentration only)** Student communicates in conversation on an advanced level in a language other than English:

\_\_\_\_\_ **A.3.b. (cultural studies concentration only)** Student demonstrates fluency with theoretical terms and modes of discussion:

\_\_\_\_\_ **A.3.c. (classical studies concentration only)** Student reads and understands writing in either Greek or Latin on an advanced level:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.2.)** Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.3.)** Students distinguishes the characteristics of different schools and movements within a community's production and in relation to neighboring communities or trends:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(D.1.)** Student demonstrates familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identifies their principle theorists:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

Addendum 2

II. Outcomes Assessment Scoring Sheet for CL/CS M.A. Thesis or Research Paper

Name of M.A. candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

Date of assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Year \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle an evaluation of student's performance of designated skill, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.*

**(A.2.)** Student incorporates a theoretical framework into written discussions of a literary work:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(B.1.)** Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.2.)** Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.3.)** Students distinguishes the characteristics of different schools and movements within a community's production and in relation to neighboring communities or trends:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(D.1.)** Student demonstrates familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identifies their principle theorists:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5