

Project Name:	Expansion of L&S Faculty Lines in French and Italian
MIU Round(s):	3
Sponsor(s):	College of Letters and Science
Coordinator(s):	Steven Winspur, Patrick Rumble
Partner(s):	Gary Sandefur, Nancy Westphal-Johnson
Report Dates:	Year 1, July 2012; Year 2, July 2013

Project Goal and Measures

Project Impact Measure(s)	Use MIU funding for faculty TAs to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expose all students in undergraduate French courses to cultural and ethnic differences in the francophone world. • Integrate more electronic media into 100 and 200-level French classes that will help students practice grammar and phonetics. • Assess, and modify course structure and delivery if needed, learning outcomes and satisfaction with French courses and progress towards desired learning outcomes. • Relieve enrollment bottlenecks in French 311, 321, and 322 by increasing the number of sections offered with the new faculty positions.
Project Impact Data Source(s)	Department of French and Italian. APIR can provide information on course enrollments (to evaluate access issues) and staffing levels.
Baseline Measure(s)	Academic Year 2009-10 will be used as the baseline for all project impact measures.

MIU Impact Measures

A	Increased access in bottleneck areas	Covered in project goals (bottlenecks in French 311, 321, and 322)
C	Increased capacity for high-impact practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting in Spring 2013 a faculty member will offer French 555 (Research Possibilities in French Studies), a 1-credit course for seniors designed to interest students in and prepare them for graduate study in French. • Linking a revamped film club at the residential French House to other campus film series where francophone films appear.

Expansion of L&S Faculty Lines in French and Italian, Page 2

D	Increased student learning and teaching excellence	With help of a TA specifically hired for assessment, critical skills for each French language course have been developed and tools to measure progress are being implemented. These will give instructors more information on the progress of students in course material. The TA will also implement assessments of student learning at key intervals in the undergraduate program.
E	More tenured, tenure-track faculty teaching undergraduate courses	Covered in project goals. The number of faculty-taught sections of French 227, 228, 271, and 248 will increase due to new faculty hires.
F	Decreased achievement gaps	The Department of French and Italian requested and received information about achievement gaps in French courses. While there are currently no significant achievement gaps in French courses, the department will continue to monitor student outcomes as curricular innovations are implemented.
G	Attention to diversity in new hires	One position targeted a faculty member who was an expert on francophone culture outside of France and francophone cinema. Department chair contacted programs (Louisiana State, UCLA, Minnesota) who have significant number of students of color graduating in the field of francophone cinema and encouraged them to apply for the position. The applicant pool was diverse and offers were made to diverse candidates.

Progress Reports

Year 1, 2011-12

- Conducted two faculty searches. One new faculty member will begin in Fall 2012. The second search will be reopened in Fall 2012.
- Hired two teaching assistants (50%) focused on assessment of student learning in French courses and on implementation support for technology.
- Designed and received approval for a new course, French 201 (French for Speaker of Other Romance Languages) that will allow speakers of other romance languages to move faster through the French curriculum.
- Designed and received approval for French 248 (Ethnic Studies in the Francophone World), and ethnic studies course taught in English.
- Revised French 228 to incorporate course content about francophone cultures outside of France.
- Have put in place a solid assessment program and have begun by articulating goals for the language program and for the major, while devising a plan for evaluating progress.

Year 2, 2012-13

- Conducted a successful faculty search for the second of two MIU-funded faculty positions. The second new faculty member will start in Fall 2013.
- Offered French 248 (Ethnic Studies in the French/Francophone World) for the first time in Fall 2012.

Expansion of L&S Faculty Lines in French and Italian, Page 3

Year 2, continued

- Offered new senior seminar on Francophone African cinema (French 568).
 - Used MIU funding to develop a new online critical reader for French 271. Critical readers are sets of exercises that students do online outside of class hours to prepare for class discussions.
 - Six other faculty members developed critical readers for other courses, making progress to the MIU goal of developing an online bank for critical readers that are accessible on a website for all French instructors. As of April 2013 there were 118 critical readers available.
 - Designed and started the governance approval process for a new certificate in French.
 - Offered a new course (French 201) designed for speakers of other romance languages who want to learn French so that they can complete the normal French 101-102 sequence in a single semester.
 - Assessment: Compared grades of students in sections that used critical readers to grades in sections not using them and found that student grades improved in the sections using critical readers.
 - Assessment: Conducted survey of student self-assessment of learning in introductory and intermediate French courses with the goal of improving articulation between the courses so that students benefit from a logical growth in language skills and have increasingly complex assignments. This assessment identified two key areas for improvement: 1) the need for more focus on writing in French at each level, and 2) a better articulation of the expected learning outcomes in grammar at each level.
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