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German Studies Discipline Assessment Report 2014/2015

German Studies Discipline

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Stephen Mark Carey

German Studies Discipline Assessment 2014 - 2015

With both the WebCAPE tests and the addition of a portfolio and oral exam system, we have been able to more clearly chart the development of our students over the course of first year German (1001/1002), yielding results that align with MLA (Modern Language Association) and CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) standards. We have been gradually making changes to the curriculum with additions of seven new courses with an additional three courses which will be added. One of the first courses added was German 3333, so that I could ensure that all of the students taking the subsequent literature courses could actually read and write German with the proficiency required to engage the material. A full revision of the curriculum was not possible until we had acquired the necessary staffing – which we will be again changing for 2015 -2016. In terms of the curricular changes, the goal has been to create a clearly sequenced language program, in which each semester progressively demands a higher level proficiency and the broader 3 year plan will hopefully give us some insight into how that is developing. The Assessment plan put into place last year allowed us to clearly demonstrate progress over the first year 1001 /1002.

Unfortunately, we have gone from hitting our highest numbers for a 3000 level course in Fall of 2014 to losing all 16 students who took 2002 or 3001 in Spring 2015, some majors among them. This may have been a personality issue with Dr. Dewey but no one from those courses continued to any German class this year. Therefore, my main priority now is to secure and stabilize the transition courses (2002 /3001) so that we can get back on track of rebuilding the program. This year (2015 - 2016), we will assess 2001/2002.