

Endorsement Re-approval Form
(2007 Standards)

1. Name of Institution: **Washington State University**
2. Endorsement: **World Languages**
3. Name/contact information:

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4. Signature: _____
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Department of Teaching and Learning

5. Narrative:

The curriculum and major/minor checklists in the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures were revamped in 2001 in order to reflect national trends in foreign language study, to make the program more cohesive and to respond to student interests. For example, a chronological approach to course offerings in literature, wherein courses existed for Medieval, Renaissance, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, was shelved in favor of collapsing these courses into three courses called “Themes,” “Authors,” and “Genres.” In this way, faculty would have more freedom to create exciting literary offerings in all major degree languages of Chinese, French, German and Spanish. For example, in the French language, literary offerings of “The Stranger in French Literature,” including Camus’ famous novel of the same name, Marguerite Duras’ *L’Amant*, Choderlos de Laclos’ *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, Patrick Modiano’s *Livret de famille*, among other works) will attract students and give them a compelling experience of reading French texts. This change also allowed us to develop new courses in film studies in all major languages, which have been very well received by the students.

In addition to translation courses already taught at the 300-level in the specific language, we have also developed translation courses, taught in English (courses dealing with film, culture and literature) at both the 100-level and 400-level. The 100-level courses appeal to freshmen and sophomores as they all carry GER designation. In addition, we have seen that a good experience in these classes often prompts the student to take up a foreign language again. The 400-level courses all carry the ‘capstone’ [T] designation and allow students interested in things foreign to bring together foreign language and culture study,

possible study abroad and exposure to related courses in the humanities in an upper-level seminar-like setting.

In general, the foreign language minor requires that students take the first four semesters of language or equivalent, plus another nine credits in language, film, literature, and/or culture courses taught in the target language. The foreign language major requires 15 credits of language coursework beyond the fourth semester; one course of introduction in: world languages, foreign film, culture or literature, global theory/regional reality; two courses in the target language that deal with literature, film and/or culture; and two 400-level seminar courses. If the student has chosen the teaching option, they are also required to take two pedagogy courses specific to foreign languages and taught in the DFLLC: one basic course in second language acquisition and one course focused on using technology in the foreign language classroom (for instruction, assessment, management).

6. Major Assessments:

All foreign language courses include instruction in the four target-language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. For this reason, a variety of assessment methods is used to ascertain the level of proficiency in these skills. These methods may include oral interviews, term papers, in-class presentations (individual or group), written exams, short essays, quizzes, regular homework exercises, listening comprehension tests, etc. Because the underlying emphasis in all of our endeavors is increasing the student's ability to communicate in a foreign language, we require regular attendance and active participation in small- and large-group activities. In our literature, film, and culture courses students are still required to develop their language skills – their reading and listening comprehension as they read literary and cultural works and view foreign films, as well as their speaking and writing skills as they prepare presentations, term papers and projects, take exams, and participate in discussions. In many ways, the foreign language degree is a dual degree, as students are required to learn content (aspects of culture, film history, literary artifacts) and maneuver through and comment upon this content in a foreign language.