

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

MAJOR: B.A. IN FRENCH

SUBMITTED BY MARK K. JENSEN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FRENCH

APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, APRIL 6, 2009

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT AND/OR PROGRAM GOALS:

The French program in the Department of Languages and Literatures of Pacific Lutheran University aims to make students capable listeners, competent speakers, proficient writers, and insightful readers of French who evince a high level of cultural understanding.

Faculty trained in the study of French and Francophone literatures and cultures seek to familiarize students with the global influence of French language and culture and well as with appropriations of and reactions against that heritage while fostering the principles and goals of academic study: depth of knowledge, discursive responsibility, and clarity of judgment.

French majors learn to recognize, interpret, and critically appraise different conceptions French speakers have at various times held about the nature of French society (e.g. a synthesis of "north" and "south"; "*Paris et la province*," "*un peuple frondeur*") and of its relation to Europe (e.g. as crossroads, leader, or hegemon) and to the world (e.g. agent of enlightenment and progress, "*la mission civilisatrice*"), and also certain key cultural values (e.g. "*la clarté française*," "*la raison*," "*l'insouciance*," "*la galanterie*," "*l'esprit*," "*le système D*," etc.). Students become knowledgeable about authors, movements, periods, and genres central to the shaping of Francophone literature and cultures, as well as about the critical thought that has both enriched and challenged them. They learn to conduct research that aspires to contribute insightfully and creatively to that critical practice and are encouraged to become lifelong learners in this domain.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

French classes are structured sequentially to enable students to become increasingly capable listeners, competent speakers, proficient writers, and insightful readers of French.

EXPRESSION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

Students . . .

- Master elements of grammar essential to effective communication in French;
- Communicate effectively in authentic French both orally and in writing;

- Adapt the language appropriately to the generic and social character of their communication;
- Analyze and compare conflicting ideas and opinions to facilitate cooperation and collaboration.

CRITICAL REFLECTION

Students . . .

- Assess the cultural character of individual, social, and intellectual values;
- Appreciate insightfully how French culture has influenced other cultures, particularly that of the United States;
- Develop literary interpretations through analysis of language, conventions of genre, the influence of history, and the progress of ideas;
- In their writing, challenge assumptions, anticipate consequences of divergent perspectives, explain different viewpoints on complex issues, evaluate the support available for each, and defend judgments;
- Conduct independent research in French both in writing and orally in a senior-year 'capstone' project that is used by faculty in French to assess program success in reaching its objectives.