Core Curriculum Course Justification and Assessment Plan

Subject Prefix and Course Number: ITAL 3040

Note that this form will typically be used as an attachment to curriculum forms UCC-A-102 (Request for Addition of Course to Core Curriculum) or UCC-C-108 (Request for Change in Existing Core Curriculum Course). This form alone cannot be used to make catalog changes. All courses proposed to be newly added to the core must complete UCC-A-102, and any changes to existing core curriculum courses other than only realigning or updating the core curriculum justification and assessment plan must complete UCC-C-108. Existing core curriculum courses that are not changing core curriculum categories and only need to realign their justifications and assessment plans may complete this form alone.

Course title (cut and paste from catalog or form UCC-A-102):
ITAL 3040 - Topics in Italian Culture

Course is in, or proposed to be in, the university core curriculum:

in a single foundational component area only.

The foundational component area that describes the heart and soul of the core curriculum course and accurately describes the course consistently throughout the entire course is:

Language, Philosophy, and Culture

Justification for the course to be added (or remain) in the core curriculum:

Describe how the course consistently and thoroughly focuses on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience:

ITAL 3040 focuses on different aspects of Italian culture. Students focus on similarities and differences between their own culture and the Italian culture. Papers and projects focus on how culture shapes a population, similarities and differences between Italian and American cultures, and how past events have influenced cultures in different manners.

Describe how the course consistently and thoroughly involves the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures:

ITAL 3040 explores worldwide events and their effects on Italian and American cultures. Students explore major world events and how their impact is manifested across Italian, European, and American cultures. Students will look for similarities and differences across the cultures to draw conclusions about the human condition in general, and how culture can produce different outcomes.

Describe how the course will actively help students develop their critical thinking skills, which include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information:

ITAL 3040 examines diverse cultural elements and trends in Italy. Students use critical thinking skills to write papers on the outcomes of specific events and how worldwide events influence different cultures differently. Students also create projects in which they use their knowledge of Italian culture and worldwide events to create innovative questions about Italian culture and how worldwide events affect differently cultures differently. Students also analyze different primary sources (films, poems, novels, art pieces) and connect them to trends in Italian culture and worldwide events.
Describe how the course will actively help students develop their communication skills, which include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication:

ITAL 3040 asks students to participate in a wide range of activities. Students submit weekly analysis papers on different aspects of the course (readings, films, art pieces, etc.). Students are also expected to participate in exploratory and persuasive discussions, share their opinions, and question others' opinions in a manner that is respectful yet challenging. Students are also tasked with a midterm project that includes a visual element to aid in their presentation. Students can select a topic of their choice that focuses on the cultural elements studied in the course.

Describe how the course will actively help students develop personal responsibility, which includes the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making:

ITAL 3040 exposes students to different aspects of Italian culture. Through response papers and critical analysis and synthesis of primary sources presented in class, students are forced to consider how cultural, traditional, and worldwide events affect people and cultures differently. Students are also asked to state their opinions on how they might have reacted to specific events and how their decisions might have created different outcomes to important cultural phenomena. During the midterm presentation, students present an element related to the topic of the class that allows them to explore and analyze how choices are linked to actions and how those actions can have greater consequences.

Describe how the course will actively help students develop social responsibility, which includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities:

ITAL 3040 exposes students to different aspects of Italian culture and asks them to engage in respectful and critical analysis of those elements. Through careful analysis of primary sources and analysis of worldwide events, students develop an educated opinion on their own civic responsibility. Furthermore, through analysis of worldwide events, students gain an understanding of how one single event can affect cultures differently and how global communities can assist one another.

Assessment Plan:

Assessment Approach:  
- [ ] Individually designed course-level plan  
- [x] Core Academy Facilitated Communal Assessment

The signatures of the course designer and department chair below certify that instructors for this course will participate in a communal assessment facilitated by the Core Academy. This involves the inclusion of up to two assignments in the course that follow the communal assessment framework and commits the course instructors to assist with any necessary communal grading against a common rubric.

Course Designer (type name):  Dr. Jessica Greenfield

Course Designer's Signature:  [Signature]
Department Chair (type name): Dr. Carol Anne Costabile-Heming

Department Chair's Signature

☑ Syllabus attached (maximum 4 pages)
Consultation with Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum:

Member: ___________________________ Date 11/12/12

APPROVED:

Department Chair
(print name)
Carol Anne Costabile-Heming
(signature)
Date 12/6/12

College/School Curriculum Committee Chair
(print name)
Lawrence Williams
(signature)
Date 12/6/12

Dean of College/School
(print name)
Sean B Schaake
(signature)
Date 12/6/12

Oversight Cmte on the Core Curriculum Chair
(print name)
(signature)
Date

University Curriculum Cmte (VPAA)
(print name)
(signature)
Date
Topics in Italian Culture (ITAL 3040)

Jessica Greenfield
Office: 405A
Email: Jessica.Greenfield@unt.edu
Phone: 565-4515
Office Hours: TBA and by appt.

Core curriculum:
This course satisfies the Language, Philosophy, and Culture portion of the University Core Curriculum. Please read the Undergraduate Catalog and contact an advisor for additional information.

Core objectives:
As a result of their experience in this course as part of the University Core Curriculum, UNT graduates will develop:

- Critical thinking skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, oral and visual information
- Communication skills: to include effective development, interpretation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Personal responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- Social responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course objectives:
1. Overview of contemporary Italy, daily life, and the value system though the study of selected readings, video sequences, and other realia.
2. Development of the four language skills in Italian though intensive practice in listening (course is conducted in Italian), speaking (active participation is expected from all students), reading, and writing.

Course description:
This course will present an overview of contemporary Italy including the evolution of the Italian language and its dialects, geography, Italian regions, the main historical figures and events that have shaped Italy, the political structure of the country, the organization of education, family, the status of women, food and gastronomy, tradition, and the arts. This course is conducted in Italian.

Textbook:
Mezzadri, Marco e Lunuccio Pederzani. Civiltà punto: Civiltà e cultura italiana per ragazzi.
The textbook will be supplemented with video clips and handouts on the course BB site.
Evaluation:
1. Tests (50%) There will be six written tests during the semester. They will cover oral work, handouts, and the work from the textbook. They will also stress cultural knowledge and vocabulary. The last test will be given during Finals Week.

2. Homework (30%) Students will be responsible for preparing the assignments indicated on the syllabus. In addition, there will be a one-page written assignment at the conclusion of each unit. Late assignments are not accepted unless an appropriate medical excuse is presented at the following class meeting.

3. Attendance and Participation (20%) Emphasis will be on conversational skills and several oral activities will be assigned. Students are expected to be present and actively participate on a dilay basis.

4. Grading scale
   - 90-100 A
   - 80-89 B
   - 70-79 C
   - 60-69 D
   - Under 60 F

The Department of Foreign Languages cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act. Please present your written accommodation request to your professor on or before the 12th class day.

Programma giornaliero:

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