Appendix 2: GEOC Program Plan For Information Literacy

Major Program ____GERMAN _____

Briefly describe how Information Literacy will be taught within your major program. List courses in which these skills will be embedded.

Students satisfy the Information Literacy requirement by taking
  1) one of GERM 233-234 (Building Language Skills Through Culture I and II); and
  2) one of GERM 253W (Studies in German Literature Around 1800), 254W (Studies in 19th Century German Literature), 255W (Studies German Literature of the 20th and 21st Centuries), 281W (German Film and Culture), 284W (German Cinema in Cross-Cultural Perspective); and
  3) GERM 246 (The Finishing Touch: A Capstone in German Studies).

Courses listed above engage students actively in academic inquiry and production. Learning in these courses is student-centered, problem-based, and task-oriented. Students learn to determine, compare, and access--mostly German-language--sources that help them obtain information about issues related to the language, cultures, or literatures of German-speaking countries. Information resources include print and electronic formats of books, encyclopedias, newspapers, journals, and electronic resources. Information gathering may range from identifying practical items such as Austrian, German or Swiss train schedules to understanding and critically evaluating information presented in newspaper articles and scholarly publications. Studying issues of the German-speaking countries by analyzing literary and non-fictional texts and visuals confronts students with information generated by members of other cultures; this helps them become sensitized to differences in national and cultural perspectives and to the cultural biases that the sources or the students themselves may hold. Students are also encouraged to assess possible biases on race, class, gender or other factors.

  Multiple assignments throughout the semester require students to select and access a variety of sources and compare and evaluate the quality of information provided by them. Researching various cultural issues pertaining to the German-speaking countries in each course, students develop strategies to conduct increasingly more complicated academic research. They learn to understand, critically evaluate, and incorporate the gathered information into their own knowledge base. The courses require that students synthesize the knowledge gained to construct new concepts and that they translate their findings and interpretations into well researched and well structured class presentations (often aided by power point presentations) and/or term papers. Assignments are often individualized to meet double- or dual-degree majors' needs to link their interest and expertise in one major (e.g., business, engineering, or art history) to the knowledge of German language, literature and culture gained in the other in order to prepare for careers that make use of their dual qualification.

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  Specifically,

(1) in the third-year language and culture courses GERM 233 and 234, a mandatory visit to the library introduces students to German-language holdings, English-language holdings about German Literature and German Studies, and both German- and English-language search engines, websites, databases and how they work. Students learn to use information effectively to accomplish specific tasks, such as obtaining practical information (e.g., identifying train fares), getting informed about cultural issues using different sources (e.g. soccer, the university system, Beethoven's symphonies, or challenges to minority groups), researching a scholarly topic in German language, culture, or literature (e.g., the Vienna dialect, approaches to the Holocaust, the merger of Daimler-Chrysler, or works by Franz Kafka);

(2) in the writing courses about literature and film (GERM 252W, 253W, 254W, 281W, 284W) students acquire research strategies and learn to distinguish their own ideas from ideas in readings, integrate their own ideas with ideas from other sources, and altogether efficiently use the sources to construct their own academic arguments. They furthermore discuss issues of intellectual property and plagiarism in detail and learn to use the citation formats appropriate to the field of German Literature and German Studies;

(3) the capstone course GERM 246 gives students an opportunity to consolidate their learning in German Literature or German Studies and demonstrate their information literacy in an individualized final project.

Are all these courses required of your students? If not, how will you assure that all students attain the exit expectations for Information Literacy.

All of the course options listed above are courses required of German majors.

Date of Approval by Faculty or Appropriate Faculty Committee____10/1/04____

Date of Approval by School/College C&C Committee_____

Major Program contact person _Katharina von Hammerstein, 6-1532 (or Roger Travis, 6-3316) _____

Date Submitted to GEOC _____