

Italian Program – Instruction and Learning Assessment Results 2004

In spring 2004, Italian faculty and instructors met to discuss and evaluate direct and indirect assessment materials. These include written work completed by majors, such as exams, writing samples, and proficiency activities conducted in Italian 204 and 312, as well as course evaluations provided by students. The materials were evaluated in relation to course and program goals and ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

Based upon the evaluation, a new Italian text was adopted for the Intermediate language sequence in order to enable students to study and use advanced linguistic forms throughout their second year of language study. New class and testing materials were produced for the text. Furthermore, new film texts have been adopted for the 145 Views of Italy course, since they are more suited to the topics examined. Similarly, the 258 course examining contemporary Italian society and culture, was entirely redesigned, shifting from an approach that attempted to create a socio-cultural panorama to one that focuses on a few key topics as represented in film, literature, and the media, examined in their specific socio-historical context. Based upon student work and evaluations, the changes appear to have been effective, enabling the students to explore and gain an understanding of contemporary social and cultural issues in their complexity.