American Studies provides students with an opportunity to explore the rich diversity of the United States of America – its people and its cultures. Students develop a perspective on America that is broader than the perspective of any one discipline; and, by analyzing American culture and society, they can better understand their own experiences and those of other Americans past and present.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

- To develop a methodology for critical thinking about texts
- To develop a sense of the history and politics of the U.S.
- To develop a sense of the arts, literary, visual, and musical, in America
- To develop a methodology for integrating different disciplines in the minor

ASSESSMENT (What assessment tools are you using and how do they address the objective/goals cited above?):

- Sample essays from American Studies minor classes
- Sample final exams from American Studies minor classes
- Final interdisciplinary paper from last course taken in the minor.
- Exit interview

WHERE ARE THE ASSESSMENTS LOCATED?

In the offices of the co-directors of the programs (copies to each co-director)

EVALUATION METHODS (How were the assessments evaluated?):

Assessments are evaluated by the co-directors of the program at the end of each academic year. A sample group of students are chosen when they enter the minor and tracked through each course they take in the minor.

RESULTS/OUTCOMES:

Since we have so few minors at this time, we are tracking all of them and making recommendations for assignments, new courses, and final interdisciplinary papers on the basis of their progress.
USE OF RESULTS (What modifications, adjustments were made based upon the evaluation of the assessment materials?):

- We have added three new Criminal Justice courses to the minor
- We have added a film course to the minor
- We have spoken to Political Science, Sociology, and Criminal Justice about the minor.
- We have asked departments supplying courses in the minor to help us track when courses will be taught.

RESOURCES/TIMELINE/APPROVALS (Based upon the modifications/adjustments included in the USE OF RESULTS section, identify the timeline, resources and approvals required to implement the change.):

- We have acquired a budget to produce more flyers (year one).
- We are working on a proposal for an introductory interdisciplinary course, Introduction to American Studies (year two)
- We continue to recruit students through tracking those who have taken courses in the minor without having declared the minor.

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<tr>
<th>SIGNATURE: DEPT. CHAIR/DIRECTOR</th>
<th>SIGNATURE: DEAN/VICE-PRESIDENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Mary A. McCoy</td>
<td>Name: JoAnn H. Cray</td>
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<td>Date: 11/11/11</td>
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