1.0 Executive Summary

The New Orleans Studies minor provides students with in-depth study of the history, culture, society, environment and representations of the city of New Orleans, offering a model for understanding larger issues of the urban experience through a close examination of a specific place.

Incorporating a broad range of disciplines, the minor supports the university’s mission of working for a more just world by providing students with a critical understanding of the city in which they live.

Loyola’s commitment to the New Orleans community is a unique one grounded in a devotion to Jesuit values that demands a strong presence and connection to the city and its citizens. In recognition of this commitment, Loyola has attracted and developed a strong interdisciplinary faculty with singular expertise in the study of New Orleans.

In keeping with the 2012 Strategic plan, New Orleans Studies complements the goal of enhancing reputation and stature, particularly strategy 3a, which emphasizes the importance of programs “emanating from our location in New Orleans... that are distinctive in subject matter and that are cross-disciplinary, inter-departmental, and inter-college programs based on subject matter upon which no other University competes.”

In the draft of the Strategic Plan Overarching Strategies and Action Plans, #3 speaks directly to the mission of the New Orleans Studies minor: “To create a learning -centered community infused by the cultures and traditions of New Orleans” and to “Increase opportunities for students to interact with the cultures, traditions, and location of New Orleans through their coursework.” These have been the goals of the New Orleans Studies minor since its inception in 2010.

2.0 Unit Profile Summary

New Orleans Studies is overseen by the steering committee of the Center for the Study of New Orleans, which is composed of faculty and staff from areas throughout the university. We regularly consult with chairs and directors about course offerings and rotations. We also use information about courses and their enrollments that is provided by Academic Affairs.

Director: Leslie Parr, A. Louis Read Distinguished Professor of Communication, School of Mass Communication

Steering Committee: The steering committee of the Center of the Study of New Orleans also leads the New Orleans Studies minor.

Laura Beatty, Student Records Coordinator, School of Mass Communication
John Biguenet, Robert Hunter Distinguished Professor, Department of English
Barbara Ewell, Dorothy Harrell Brown Distinguished Professor of English
Sanford Hinderlie, Professor and Director of the Music Technology Center, College of Music and Fine Arts
Justin Nystrom, Assistant Professor of History
Lisa Martin, School of Mass Communication Instructor and Director, Center for Intercultural Understanding
Patricia Nugent, Archivist, Monroe Library
Janna Saslaw, Asso. Professor of Music Theory, College of Music and Fine Arts
John Snyder, Chair, Music Industries Studies and Conrad N. Hilton Eminent Scholar in Music Industry Studies, College of Music and Fine Arts
Robert A. Thomas, Professor, School of Mass Communication, and Director, Center for Environmental Communication
Tracey Watts, Instructor, Department of English

3.0 Goals for Current Academic Year

Sponsor events on New Orleans topics. Review New Orleans Studies courses.

4.0 Budget for Current Academic Year

Operating budget ($1,100)
Funds were used to support Talks and Tours by New Orleans Studies faculty (stipends and admission fees=$1,680). Residential Life transferred money ($620) into our account to help pay for Family Weekend expenses. The sum of $117 was used to support a field trip in a New Orleans Studies course. Taxes accounted for the rest of our budget and a $76.00 deficit.
5.0 Assessment Report

The steering committee has identified the following learning outcomes for New Orleans Studies:
-- a critical understanding of the history of New Orleans
-- a critical understanding of New Orleans society
-- a critical understanding of New Orleans culture
-- a critical understanding of significant issues and problems facing the city today

Assessment: We distribute evaluation forms to New Orleans Studies classes. Last semester we tried using an electronic form, since it is sometimes difficult for faculty to find time in class for their students to fill out our form in addition to their departmental evaluation. We hoped that by doing an online evaluation, we might get more and fuller responses. This proved not to be the case, and this year we went back to a hard copy form, except for online courses.

Minors: Since the minor’s inception in 2010, we have had 13 minors. During 2013-14, we had 4 minors.

Evaluation of Courses: After reviewing course content in all the New Orleans Studies Minor courses, we determined that two courses in Criminal Justice did not offer enough New Orleans content to justify keeping them in the minor: Juvenile Delinquency and Deviant Behavior. They have been deleted from the New Orleans Studies minor.

We also questioned whether Black Theatre contained sufficient New Orleans content, but after consultation with Prof. Laura Hope we understood that it had more than enough to qualify as a New Orleans minor course.

Activities: With the goal of aiding recruitment and retention, the Center for the Study of New Orleans and New Orleans Studies sponsored Talks and Tours, four mini-courses by New Orleans Studies faculty on New Orleans literature, music, film and Mardi Gras and three tours of the city: a walking tour of New Orleans's ‘Little Italy,’ an environmental tour of the city, and a trip to the Backstreet Cultural Museum in the Treme. All of the tours were fully and even overly booked and the classes were well attended. Judging from informal feedback from the participants, all of these events were successful and popular. Given the financial constraints the Center experienced this year, the program seemed the most economical way to reach the targeted audience and provide scholarly programming focused on the knowledge and accomplishments of Loyola faculty and the unique culture of New Orleans.

Family Weekend Events:
(about 225 people participated in these events)

Courses Offered in New Orleans Studies Minor, 2013-14

BIOL Z244, Miss. River Delta Ecology, S14
CRJ C275, Deviant Behavior?, F13, S14, M14
CRJU C250, Juvenile Delinquency, S14
ENGL A438, Southern Literature, S14
ENGL A372, Studies in American Cinema, New Orleans in Film, F13
In all, we offered 22 classes with an enrollment of 414 students.

6.0 Summary of Achievements

Summary of Achievements of New Orleans Studies Faculty:

Dr. Mark Fernandez, Professor of History and 2012 Woody Guthrie Fellowship recipient, presented a series of talks exploring Woody Guthrie's thoughts on racial equality at the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

David W. Moore, chair of the Department of History, received The Rev. James J. Pillar, O.M.I., Distinguished Professorship in History.

Justin Nystrom received a Summersell Center Honorable Mention for his book, *New Orleans after the Civil War: Race, Politics, and a New Birth of Freedom*.

John Biguenet published a new short story, "Ex Cathedra," in the magazine *Image* and his plays *Mold* and *Broomstick* were both nominated for the American Theatre Critics Association's Harold and Mimi Steinberg Award for best new play of 2013.

A. Louis Read Distinguished Professor of Communication and Director of the Center for the Study of New Orleans Leslie Parr and Professor of Music and Director of the Music Technology Center Sanford Hinderlie traveled to France in November to deliver keynote addresses at Aix-Marseille University. Parr spoke about the photography of Katrina and Hinderlie talked about the history of music in New Orleans at the international symposium, La Nouvelle-Orleans: La Cite’ Decalee.

7 Supporting Documents

1. New Orleans Studies course evaluation. (attached)

New Orleans Studies Supporting Documents

nost-course-evaluation.pdf