

## North American Studies Program 2018 Implementation Report

**Submitted By:** Katherine Roberts, North American Studies Program Coordinator

**Date:** May 28, 2018

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #1: An effort should be made to make the electives for a NASP joint major clearer and more transparent for students either on the calendar or web page.	Coordinator and Program	January 2017	
<b>Recommendation completed (2017).</b>			

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Recommendation #2: The program should consider substituting or adding an elective relating to indigenous peoples for the required course at the second year level. The identified “gap” in Indigenous course offerings might be temporarily solved by using elective already taught by full-time faculty.	Coordinator and Program	September 2018	This may require further discussion between the Dean of Arts, the Dean of Liberal Arts, and the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.
<b>No further reporting required (2017).</b>			

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Recommendation #4: Given the absence of program-specific courses in theory and methods, the program should strive to ensure that ... key theoretical and methodological ... are continuously offered through its core courses at each year of study.	Coordinator and Program	September 2017	

## 2017 Comments

2017 Unit Comments: The planned audit of core courses in order to address this recommendation by determining how students are introduced to the study and practice of interdisciplinary subjects has been initiated. The first step in this exercise is to ensure that learning objectives and outcomes appear on all North American Studies course syllabi, in order to ascertain whether theoretical and methodological approaches are being clearly laid out for each course, which has been done. Over 2016-17, all faculty teaching in the program were encouraged to include course objectives in their course, and compliance was nearly 100 per cent. Step 2 in this process is to compile all course objectives and outcomes listed in the course outlines, analyze these alongside the program outcomes and then undertake a gap analysis. This second stage will be completed in summer 2017 (course learning objectives and outcomes have already been compiled). The Program plans to make recommendations to the North American Studies Program Advisory Committee in fall of 2017, so that specific courses can be targeted for description revisions. In addition, any future revision to NO211 will offer an opportunity to address particular gaps in the delivery of theoretical and methodological content identified within the Program. So we expect to complete this recommendation by May 2018.

2017 Decanal Comments: I look forward to the results of the recommendations to the North American Studies Program Advisory Committee that will lead to the revision of course descriptions and learning objectives along the lines suggested by the External Reviewers.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee would appreciate a brief update in next year's report on the progress made in implementing this recommendation through the North American Studies Program Advisory Committee.

Completed  In Progress  Other

2018 Unit Comments: As planned, the unit compiled the objectives and outcomes in the North American Studies core course syllabi (Summer 2017) in order to ascertain whether theoretical and methodological approaches are being clearly laid out at each step of the program. In consultation with the North American Studies Advisory Committee, Drs. Katherine Roberts and Kevin Spooner have since made a comparative analysis and have concluded that NASP program outcomes and objectives are clearly stated in the core courses: NO105, NO201, NO202, NO211, NO230, NO240, NO301, NO312, NO315, NO401. Students are introduced to the study and practice of interdisciplinarity in NO105. The subsequent 200-, 300- and 400- courses clearly emphasize skills development in interdisciplinarity, from recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of interdisciplinarity in 2nd year, to being able to apply different disciplinary approaches in 3rd year, to designing and carrying out an interdisciplinary research project in the capstone course in the 4th year. Drs. Roberts and Spooner have thus concluded that the program's theoretical and methodological approaches are sufficiently present in the curriculum and that no additional methods course is warranted at this time.

2018 Decanal Comments: It is commendable that the program has systematically reviewed its offering in response to this recommendation. I would categorize this recommendation as "Completed."

2018 PRS Comments: The committee concurred with the dean that this recommendation should be considered completed. There is no need to report on it further.

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<p>Recommendations #5 and #6</p> <p>Recommendation #5: The program should explore the possibility of using Desire 2 Learn as a tool for measuring learning outcomes.</p> <p>Recommendation #6: The program should ensure that all course syllabi contain a statement of course objectives, with specific reference to the relationship between these objectives and broader learning outcomes.</p>	Coordinator and Program	September 2017	
No further reporting required (2017).			

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<p>Recommendation #7: NASP should continue to pursue collaboration with other academic units, specifically the Business school and the Brantford campus. The Dean should take a leadership role in these initiatives, trying to overcome past roadblocks in order to create a minor in NASP in Business and to facilitate the integration of Indigenous themes into the NASP joint major.</p>	Coordinator and Program, Dean of Arts	January 2018	Discussion will need to take place between the Program, the Dean of Arts, the Dean of FLA, and the Dean of LSBE
No further reporting required (2017).			

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<p>Recommendation #9: A judicious blend of online with in-person courses should be planned, with careful strategic planning relating to audience and goals.</p>	Coordinator and Program, Dean of Arts	April 2017	
No further reporting required (2017).			

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Recommendation #11: A strategy for maintaining relations with NASP alumni might be developed, as a means of future recruiting and as a means of measuring the impact of the program through student successes.	Coordinator and Program, Dean of Arts, Development and Alumni Relations Office	September 2017	
No further reporting required (2017).			

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Recommendation #13: Ongoing internationalization should be encouraged and aided with resources, whether this is for the course for international students, the creative use of technology to have joint seminars, or the encouragement of student learning-travel abroad.	Coordinator and Program	September 2017	
Recommendation completed (2017).			

PRS Comments: North American Studies should be commended on its efficient completion of the recommendations prioritized for implementation out of its first cyclical review in 2015-2016. No further implementation reports will be required in advance of its next cyclical review, scheduled with Political Science in 2022-2023.

Subsequent Report Required?    Yes     No