

MSU INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Title	Portuguese Language/Brazilian Studies	Request Date	December 22, 2011
Department	Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the Office of International Programs	Email	umlbk@montana.edu normp@montana.edu
Requestor	Dr. Bridget Kevane Dr. Norman Peterson	Phone	994-6448 994-5325

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Core Themes and Objectives (check all that apply)

Educate Students

- Our graduates will have achieved mastery in their major disciplines
- Our graduates will become active citizens and leaders
- Our graduates will have a multicultural and global perspective
- Our graduates will understand the ways that knowledge & art are created and applied in a variety of disciplines
- Our graduates are prepared for careers in their field
- We will provide increased access to our educational programs
- Communities and external stake holders benefit from broadly defined education partnerships with MSU

Create Knowledge and Art

- Students, faculty, and staff will create knowledge and art that is communicated widely

Serve Communities

- We help meet a fundamental need of the citizens of Montana by providing degree programs for our students
- We help meet the educational needs of the citizens of Montana by providing a wide range of educational opportunities to a variety of students
- Our students, faculty, staff, and administrators reach out to engage and serve communities
- Our students, faculty, staff, and administrator reach in to build the university community

Integrate Learning, Discovery, and Engagement

- Each graduate will have had experiences that integrate learning, discovery and engagement
- Outreach activities will educate students and address the needs of the communities we serve
- Students, faculty, and staff will create knowledge and art that addresses societal needs
- MSU is a community that will be characterized by synergy within and across disciplines, roles and functions.

Stewardship

- The public trusts the institution to operate openly and use resources wisely
- The faculty and staff are well-qualified and supported
- MSU will support Native American students, programs, and communities
- MSU will be an inclusive community, supporting and encouraging diversity
- Our publicly provided resources are used efficiently and effectively
- Natural resources are used efficiently and sustainably
- MSU nurtures a culture of resource conservation and ecological literacy among students, faculty and staff
- Our physical infrastructure (e.g., building, equipment, open spaces) will be well-maintained and useful

PROPOSAL SCOPE

Describe the Proposal

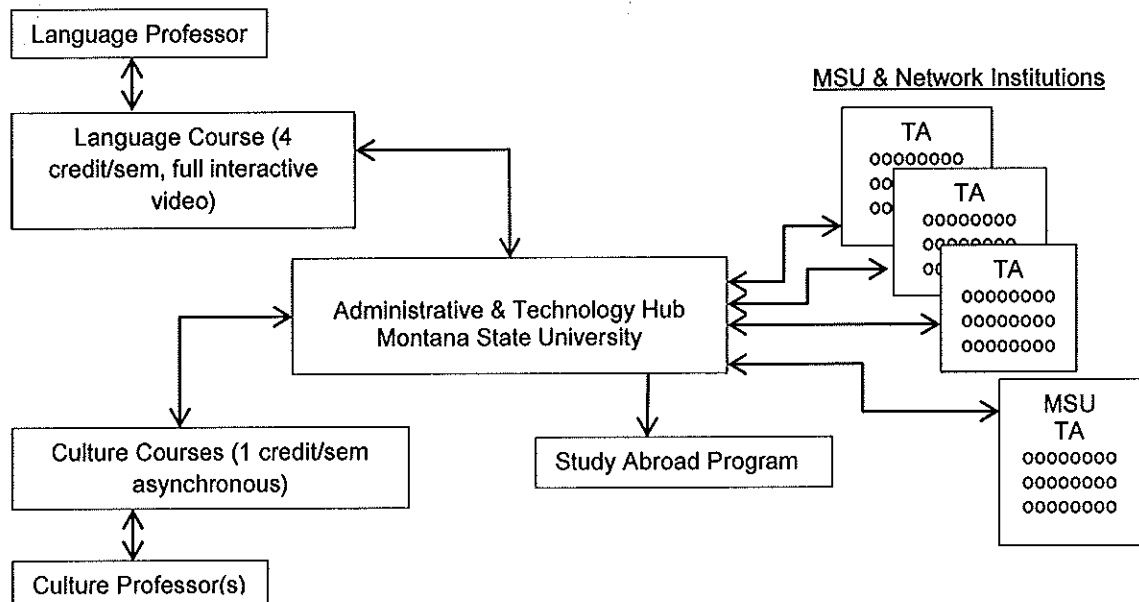
The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the Office of International Programs proposes the development of **Portuguese Language/Brazilian Studies Network** modeled on MSU's innovative, cost-effective, and highly-successful Arabic Language Network.

Portuguese has emerged as a major language of strategic importance as Brazil has developed into a major global economic power. Portuguese proficiency and knowledge of Brazil will be an increasingly valuable professional asset for MSU graduates. Offering MSU students the opportunity to learn Portuguese and study Brazil is critical in meeting our goal of our graduates having a multicultural and global perspective. Portuguese and Brazilian Studies are missing components in MSU's new Latin American and Latino Studies Program. This proposal will address this important missing piece in MSU's international education offerings.

The project will result in the following tangible outcomes:

- Elementary Portuguese I 4 credit course based on the Arabic Network model
- Elementary Portuguese II 4 credit course offered based on the Arabic Network model
- 2 fully on-line Brazilian Studies 1 credit courses
- Intermediate Portuguese I 3 credit course offered through new Brazil study abroad options
- Brazilian Language and Culture 3 credit course offered through new Brazil study abroad options
- Portuguese Language and Brazilian Studies consortium to leverage costs

The Arabic Language Network model which MSU pioneered is an innovative instructional approach designed to provide quality language instruction at an affordable cost. It uses interactive video technology to link a remotely-located, highly-trained language instructor to students at several institutions, supplemented by native-speaker teaching assistants at each location. The network model offers the instructional quality of an academically-trained language instructor while spreading the high cost of such faculty expertise across a number of institutions and augmenting it with trained and supervised native speaker teaching assistants. In addition, students are offered the option to extend their language studies through a seamlessly integrated study abroad experience. The diagram below illustrates the structure of the proposed Portuguese language and Brazilian studies network.



The MSU Arabic Network has gained national recognition, having been awarded the Institute of International Education's Andrew Heiskell Award for Campus Internationalization and been featured in the

Chronicle of Higher Education, "A Teaching Network Brings Arabic to the Heartland", May 3, 2011.
http://chronicle.com/article/A-Teaching-Network-Brings/127374/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

The program is an ideal way to expand foreign language and international studies options across the MSU system. MSU Billings has indicated strong interest in being part of the Network in order to offer these courses to its students.

Besides providing MSU students this important educational opportunity, the project allows MSU to continue to build its national and international reputation as a leader and innovator in the field of using technology to teach less-commonly-taught languages and international education more generally.

PROPOSAL SCOPE

Describe the broader impacts and benefits of this proposal

The proposal to develop Portuguese Language/Brazilian Studies Network modeled on MSU's innovative Arabic Language Network (formally the U.S. Arabic Distance Learning Network) offers the following broad impacts and benefits:

- MSU students would have the opportunity to develop proficiency in Portuguese, a language of growing strategic importance due to the emergence of Brazil as a major economic power.
- Expand and enrich MSU's academic programs which enable our graduates to develop a multicultural and global perspective.
- Provide a critical missing component in MSU's Latin American and Latino Studies Program which currently does not include options to study Brazil and Portuguese, an omission of increasing importance due to the growing influence and importance of Brazil.
- Develop valuable new partnerships with Brazilian universities which will result in productive other impacts for MSU, such as research collaboration; faculty exchange, and student recruitment, etc.
- Expand MSU's relationships within Latin America, a region underrepresented in MSU's global partnership network.
- Attract student applicants interested in developing knowledge of Latin American languages and cultures.
- Enhance MSU recognition for leadership and innovation in developing new approaches to offering less-commonly-taught languages as established through the award-winning U.S. Arabic Distance Learning Network.
- Contribute to best practices in offering high quality, low cost language instruction in a wide array of less-commonly-taught languages of growing strategic importance across the fabric of U.S. higher education.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Implementation Plan** *(Please describe with timelines)*

Spring 2012	Announce plans for Portuguese Language and Brazil Studies classes to MSU faculty and students
Summer 2012	Review proposal and develop detailed implementation plan
Fall 2012	Organize national Advisory Council and conduct webinar meeting Initiate search for lead Portuguese language instructor Select lead Portuguese language instructor Establish technology links with Portuguese language instructor Identify faculty to develop on-line Brazilian Studies classes Initiate discussions with Brazilian institutions regarding hosting study abroad programs Announce Portuguese Language/Brazil Studies Network to U.S. higher education community
Spring 2013	Develop 4 credit Elementary Portuguese I and II classes Develop two 1 credit on-line Brazil Studies classes Advisory Council review of Portuguese and Brazil class plans Finalize partnership with Brazil institution(s) for study abroad program Select institutional network partners Configure interactive video and asynchronous network connections
Fall 2013	Launch Elementary Portuguese I and Brazil Studies classes
Spring 2014	Launch Elementary Portuguese II and other Brazil Studies classes Proficiency testing of student sample Select study abroad participants
Summer 2014	Intensive Portuguese study abroad program in Brazil
Fall 2014	Modify classes based on evaluation Launch revised classes Semester study abroad program option

Assessment Plan *(Please describe with indicators)*

A multi-faceted approach to assessing the proposed project is planned as summarized below.

- Project national Advisory Council would review and assess class plans
- Students would complete course evaluations
- Interactive video evaluation sessions would take place each semester
- Student sample would take part in CLEP proficiency testing both at the end of year one and after study abroad
- Enrollment data would track student interest and retention rates
- Partner institutions would evaluate the network program and services annually
- Advisory Council would annually review all assessment data and indicator

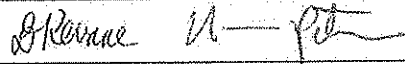
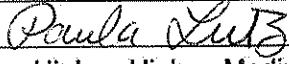
If assessed objectives are not met in the timeframe outlined, what is the plan to sunset this proposal?

The proposed project would not require entering into more than annual contracts with faculty and administrative staff, so the components of the project could be terminated without difficulty if assessed objectives are not met.

Portuguese Language / Brazilian Studies

B. Kevane
N. Peterson

MLL
Int'l Programs

SIGNATURES					
Department Head (please print)	Signature (required)			Date	
Dr. Bridget Kevane Dr. Norman Peterson				12-22-2011	
Dept Head Priority (please circle one):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very High	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Low
Dean/Director (please print)	Signature (required)			Date	
Dean Paula Lutz				1-3-12	
Dean/Director Priority (please circle one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Very High	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Low
Executive/VP (please print)	Signatures (required)			Date	
Executive/VP Priority (please circle one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Very High	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Low