

South Carolina State University

Program Planning Summary

for the

Bachelor of Arts Degree

in

Cultural Studies

Dr. Andrew Hugine, President

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Program Planning Summary for a New Program: the B.A. in Cultural Studies
South Carolina State University
February 2006

Proposed Date of Implementation: January 2007

Justification of need for the B. A. in Cultural Studies:

“South Carolina State University, through instruction, research and service activities, prepares highly skilled, competent, economically and socially aware graduates to meet life’s challenges and demands that enable them to work and live productively in a dynamic, global society.” Toward this end, the University proposes to institute an academic interdisciplinary major in Cultural Studies with concentrations in African-American Studies, Spanish, French, German and Ethnic Studies.

In its 2002 “Declaration on Diversity,” the United Nations agency, UNESCO, stated that culture is the “set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group and that it encompasses— in addition to art and literature—lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs.” The aim of the Cultural Studies degree program at South Carolina State University is to expose our students to varied forms of cultural discourse through an interdisciplinary approach which recognizes other areas of study such as history, art, language, philosophy, and sociology. Thus, in their program(s) of study, students will be intellectually engaged in the Arts, social and cultural norms, belief systems, and communications.

Students who pursue the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Cultural Studies at South Carolina State University will explore aesthetic and cognitive forms and values within social, philosophical, and historical contexts; examine the relationship between culture as lived experience and culture as creative and philosophical expression; and gain insight and experience into the way that humankind understands and communicates his/her world. Program majors will be exposed to a plethora of literal and vicarious experiences that promote critical thought and action both locally and globally. A paramount component of the Cultural Studies Program will be Service Learning. By providing service learning opportunities for majors, the Program ensures their participation in social efforts and their exposure to varied cultures, while simultaneously espousing diversity and tolerance.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity:

215 entering freshmen completed a survey as to their interest in a Cultural Studies Major, and 38 (18 percent) of the students who completed the survey indicated that they would enroll in the Cultural Studies Programs.

The student pool will consist of those students who are interested in an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Students who have a strong commitment to and aptitude for foreign languages and ethnic studies are likely to choose this major. Also students who seek advanced academic degrees might choose this major, as many graduate programs require at least reading knowledge in two languages. International students, who make up a large portion of the SCSU student body, and heritage speakers are likely to choose this major as they tend to be interested in studying multiple languages and cultures. Additionally, this may be an attractive major for undeclared majors or those who are not satisfied with their first choice of major. Another student pool might be those non traditional students who are returning after seeing the demand for and opportunities in the languages. Training in this major will lead directly to more non traditional professions like CIA/FBI agent, foreign language interpreter, Foreign Service officer, historic site administrator, and others.

Assessment of extent to which the B. A. in Cultural Studies duplicates existing programs in the state:

No institution in South Carolina has the Cultural Studies major as presented in this document (Core of courses/concentrations). Research indicates that five institutions in South Carolina have programs which can be classified as Cultural Studies:

Clafin University— African Studies; American Studies/Civilization

Clemson University— **Other Studies** include Pre-Dentistry Studies, Pre-Medicine Studies, Pre-Pharmacy Studies, Pre-Veterinary Studies, and Speech and Rhetorical Studies

Erskine College and Seminary— American Studies/Civilization

Furman University— Asian Studies

USC Columbia— Afro-American (Black) Studies; Latin American Studies

Relationship of the Cultural Studies major to existing programs at the SCState:

The Cultural Studies major will be a joint effort of the departments of English and Modern Languages, Social Sciences, Visual and Performing Arts, and the Service Learning Area. The majority of the courses already exist at the University.

Relationship of the Cultural Studies Major to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation:

Although the proposed major will be offered solely through South Carolina State University, our membership in the Community Higher Education Commission means that

students from Claflin University and Orangeburg –Calhoun Technical College are eligible to enroll.

Total new costs associated with implementing the proposed program (general estimates only):

The major in Cultural Studies will require at least three full time teachers: one in Modern Languages, one who will be 50% Religion and 50% Philosophy, and one who will be 50% Project director/coordinator and 50% teacher of Cultural Studies 250 and 450. It will also require implementation funds for office supplies, cultural activities, and support for the Service Learning component.