FAQ on the PILOT PORTFOLIO PROJECT

a) PAPERS

Q: Do we use the papers we do for classes for the portfolio, or do we have to write papers for the portfolio?
A: Both. You must include a minimum of 4 papers you did for classes, but you also have to write a reflective essay for each paper you include in the portfolio, plus one extracurricular journal and a final reflective essay.

Q: Do we submit papers with professors’ marks?
A: You can, if you want to show your progress; but the reflective essay should take care of this.

Q: Regarding the 4 essays we need to include in the portfolio, do we need to "correct" each of these essays for the portfolio? For instance, say that I received a "B" on a paper, would I have to make further corrections or would I just leave that paper in the portfolio and reflect on that?
A: You would just leave that paper in the portfolio and reflect on why you received a B and how you could have improved your grade. Also, you include other papers in which you received better grades and reflect on what made them better.

Q: Are reflective essays written in English or Spanish?
A: In English. Students need to show their ability to reflect in depth about their learning, and they can do this better in their native language.

Q: If I am not able to study abroad for a semester, would I be able to write my "extracurricular" paper about volunteer work?...I am thinking about starting to volunteer at Casa Guadalupe and teach families English...so could I write about this instead of a study abroad experience?
A: Yes, as long as you write a minimum of 7 pages while involved in an activity that complements the Spanish curriculum, you can do it for credit, such as in an internship, or service learning experience, or as community service, such as in volunteer work.

b) EXAMS

Q: Do all majors have to take the entrance exam?
A: During the time of the pilot, only majors who are participating in the pilot have to take the exam.

Q: When do we take the entrance exam?
A: In spring of 07.

Q: If I am going abroad in the spring, can I take it in the fall?
A: Yes, but you will only be taking an Oral Proficiency Interview instead of the exam that will be given to students.

Q: Is the exam given at a class or separately?
A: Students in 311 take the exam, but it’s not taken as part of the class because not all students are majors.

c) ADVISERS

Q: Is the adviser different from the Faculty member who is part of the Assessment Committee?
A: Yes. That way, you get to know other professors and they get to know you too.

Q: If professors can only take two students, what happens when it becomes mandatory?
A: During the pilot, only a group of professors is doing the portfolio. But when it becomes mandatory, all professors will need to participate, and distribute the 20 some majors amongst them.

d) PILOT

Q: Once you start the portfolio pilot, are you stuck with it?
A: Yes, so please make sure you can commit yourself to it until you finish your major.