"Thinking curricularly about collegiate language studies: A report from the Emory German studies department"

Hiram Maxim
Professor and Chair
Department of German Studies
Emory University

Monday, October 19, 2015
12:00 pm
Modern Languages Building room 201

For over two decades the collegiate foreign language (FL) profession has raised concerns about the traditional bifurcation within FL programs between so-called “language” courses at the lower levels of instruction and so-called “content” courses at the upper levels. While the increased attention on this divided departmental structure has raised awareness about the ramifications for teaching, learning, personnel, and departmental identity, it has not necessarily resulted in concrete action or practical guidelines on how to overcome this counter-productive division. For the past seven years the faculty of the German Studies Department at Emory University has been working collaboratively to address this issue through a full-scale reform of its undergraduate curriculum. Guided theoretically by a genre-based approach to language use, the department has looked to integrate the study of language and content at all levels of the curriculum. This lunch & learn presentation will focus on the impetus for, the theory behind, and the practice of curricular thinking in an undergraduate FL program.