Addressing Curricular Challenges in Second Semester French

Laura Florand

Department of Romance Studies

Overview

Because of its particular place in the language requirement, French 2, the second semester of elementary French at Duke, faces two key challenges: 1) Students enter class at different levels and learn at different rates throughout the course, 2) Instructors find it challenging to integrate often unfamiliar target cultures into a classroom setting. This project had then a two-fold goal: 1) To create sufficient review and self-assessment materials that students can use to work weak areas, using Blackboard or other assessment tools, including tools which will allow the incorporation of audio clips for aural comprehension exercises; 2) To develop digitized media resources, including streaming video for web use and a DVD of clips for easy classroom use, that instructors can use to give students cultural points of reference for cultural analysis.

Technologies Used

- Blackboard
- Digital audio & video (iMovie, Final Cut Pro)
- SoundForge
- Word

Outcomes

- Effective means of increasing student engagement in cultural materials
- Useful in incorporating culture across multiple sections
- Self-assessment materials were used heavily by students for practice & preparation

Sponsor

Center for Instructional Technology (CIT)