

Final report for ITL Grant
“French Quarter-Campus Consortium Teaching Upper-Division Courses On-Line”

Aurora Wolfgang and Terri Nelson, California State University San Bernardino

The ITL grant was used so that the French Consortium could, first, "Purchase reference materials regarding on-line instruction to use as a basis for electronic discussion"

The group conducted an extensive discussion on the use of personal video cameras for one-on-one meetings between faculty and students at different campuses. We explored the different options to connect the videocams to all campuses. After much consultation with the technicians at various campuses, the Consortium decided that we would wait a few years until the technology for videocams had advanced enough for us to use them fruitfully.

Second, "Purchase sample pedagogical materials to explore possible ways of communicating content to students (i.e. CD-ROMS in content area, software to develop materials)"

We are purchasing the following materials for Consortium classes:
6 WebCT manuals for all the French Consortium members

WebCT is the learning management system we are currently using to host our common courses. However, not all of the campuses use this platform and, therefore, do not have help support available. The manual will help faculty to problem-solve.

Several books on assessment in French and foreign languages for all those working with assessment

Given the emphasis on learning outcomes and the newly adopted NCATE standards for foreign language teaching, assessments are playing a larger role in the curriculum. These texts will allow us to look at assessment techniques and to determine if there are ways in which we can cooperate in the design and implementation of assessment instruments.

French socio-linguistics for Dr. Gretchen Angelo (Cal State, LA) and Dr. John Thompson (San Luis Obispo) for the Comparative Linguistics course

Linguistics is an area of concern for a number of the campuses since it is a requirement for the California Teaching Credential but not all campuses have qualified faculty to teach the course. Drs. Angelo and Thompson will teach a course on-line in Spring 2004.

DVD- Quatre saisons pour un festin for all campuses offering Dr. Thompson's class on the culture of French Food (Winter 2005)

Each campus will need a copy of this DVD for students to view.

Several books on Study abroad and cultural learning for those who send students abroad

These texts will help faculty to learn how to better prepare students for study abroad. A number of the texts will also be considered for use in the Contemporary France class to be taught by Dr. Nelson in Spring 2004.

Macromedia Contribute
Macromedia Flash Communication Server

These two pieces of software are being explored as means of collaborating on course design outside of the WebCT platform.

Thirdly, "Meet face-to-face for a three day meeting to share teaching materials, strategies & experiences; determine common expectations and standards for upper-division course offerings; learn to use specific multimedia tools"

Five of the French Consortium members (Terri Nelson and Aurora Wolfgang from San Bernardino, Gretchen Angelo from LA, Teresa Myintoo from Hayward, and John Thompson from San Luis Obispo) met May 30, 31, and June 1 at Cal Poly, Pomona. During that meeting, the Consortium members discussed and scheduled the shared courses to be offered in 2003-04 and 2004-05. The variety of courses offered through the French Consortium over the next two years will be:

2003-2004 FC Offerings

Fall: Advanced Grammar Review (San Bernardino)

Winter: Modern Civilization (Pomona)

Spring: Business (Los Angeles) and Contemporary France (San Bernardino)

2004-2005 FC Offerings

Fall: Advanced Grammar Review (San Bernardino) and Advanced French Civilization course, VLL (Los Angeles)

Winter: Translation (San Louis Obispo or Bakersfield), Literature course (perhaps 18th-century) (San Bernardino), French Food (San Louis Obispo)

Spring: Comparative Linguistics (Los Angeles) and a Civilization course (Pomona)

We spent several hours in a lengthy discussion about specific problems encountered this year with on-line courses. We shared our experiences (both positive and negative) and discussed in detail the needs of both students and faculty mentors. This discussion was very useful in helping faculty see what kinds of support mechanisms need to be present for students to achieve course goals without being overwhelmed. It also allowed us the opportunity to discuss the role of the faculty on-campus mentors.

The group agreed on the following steps to make courses easier:

- * Share our contact information with all Consortium members at the beginning of the school year
- * Send our paper syllabus to all Consortium members at the beginning of the quarter we are teaching a course
- * Students must register for French Consortium courses by the Monday of the 2nd week of courses

The group also spent the majority of one day looking in detail at two courses taught on-line for the consortium this year. Dr. Angelo shared her experiences in developing an on-line course, gave suggestions for implementing the on-line features and explained how & when videoconferencing is a positive course feature. We explored her course website and that of Dr. Fucaloro. (Although Dr. Fucaloro was unable to attend the meeting, she gave us unlimited access to her online course). We looked at the different features available in each course-- including bulletin boards, chat sessions, video lectures, online testing, posting notes, organizational tools (calendars, scope & sequence, etc.), and overall site organization. We analyzed a chat session in detail to determine what teaching and questioning techniques work to make the chat session useful to students. We also discussed the time it takes to create each of the features, their benefits and pitfalls, how well students make use of these features, etc.

Finally, the group discussed different ways of improving and continuing our consortium.

- * Set up a Bulletin Board for the designers of FC courses so that we can post errors or problems with our colleagues' courses
- * Add supplemental information and materials missing from the French Grammar Review textbook
- * Find out if another campus can host the consortial courses after 2003-2004 (when the San Bernardino WebCT license will expire-- it's expected that this license will not be renewed. Alternatively, explore grant funding for a new license.
- * Find funding for next year's meeting. Everyone agreed that the face-to-face meeting goes a long way in building trust and collegiality-- important factors in making the consortium work. It's also the most effective way of discussing ideas, determining consortial teaching schedules, working out problems, etc.