Project Year
2006

Project Team
Margaret Beauvois, Faculty, German and Romance Languages and Literatures, Krieger School of Arts & Sciences; Eléonore Veillet, Student, German and Romance Languages and Literatures, Krieger School of Arts & Sciences

Project Title
Learner Managed French Elements I and II – Online

Audience
Students enrolled in the Learner Managed French Elements I and II courses, (Online 210.103/104 - new hybrid online/in-class Elementary French courses) principally those with scheduling conflicts - in particular, students from the Peabody Institute and the Medical School.

Pedagogical Issue
As the curriculum of the introductory French courses has moved to a more communicative syllabus, students enrolled in the Learner Managed French Elements course receive less language contact, listening and oral practice than students enrolled in regular French Elements morning courses. The team of instructors believes it is possible to increase the number of language contact hours the LMFE students have, and to thereby enhance their acquisition of French.

Solution
The team will create a hybrid on-line course that meets the LMFE students’ needs without requiring additional hours in the classroom. They will also use this initial course as the prototype for a hybrid Intermediate Learner Managed French Elements course.

Technologies Used
Courseware (WebCT development), Digital Audio, Digital Video, Graphic Design, HTML/Web Design, PHP

Project Abstract
This project seeks to create a new online course that will meet the Learner Managed French Elements I and II students’ needs without requiring additional hours in the classroom, and to use this initial course as the prototype for a hybrid Intermediate Learner Managed French Elements course for students with scheduling conflicts. The team of instructors includes Margaret Beauvois, who brings experience with second language acquisition (especially within communication-based structured narrative or storytelling pedagogy); Loreto Sanchez, who has technical expertise; and Fellow Eléonore Veillet, a French native and PhD candidate in Spanish, who is already knowledgeable in the processes for developing and running online courses. In addition to Eléonore’s acquaintance with the online Spanish course platform, she will receive training in Audacity (a sound file program), in the use of a digital video camera, in the iMovie/iDVD software suites at the DMC, and additional training through the CER for WebCT. The
WebCT course site will allow student-teacher interaction and communication in both written and oral French. The WEBCAPE evaluation software will permit the team to assess the project. The development of new electronic resources will increase student access to instruction and possibly increase enrollment. Online materials (e.g., the freeware program Audacity for recording sound files, instant messaging with voice, etc.) will be collaboratively developed to meet our communicative goals and enhance both verbal and written communication between the students and the instructors. As part of the curriculum of this course, we plan to use cutting-edge second language acquisition methodology in which structured narratives play a large part. For this type of instruction, we will need to digitize film clips, cartoons, and podcast clips, in order to provide appropriate language input and also to include oral and written interaction modules for student participation in the story materials. As mentioned, this project will serve as a prototype for future hybrid online language courses for students with scheduling conflicts, including an intermediate-level section of Learner Managed French Elements.