

## **Project Year**

2004

## **Project Team**

Maria Encinas, Lecturer, Romance Languages, Krieger School of Arts & Sciences; Boncho Dragiyski, Graduate Student, Romance Languages, Krieger School of Arts & Sciences; Manuel Colas-Gil, Graduate Student, Romance Languages, Krieger School of Arts & Sciences

## **Project Title**

Modern Spanish Culture

## **Audience**

Undergraduate students studying the history, culture, art, and literature of Spain

## **Pedagogical Issue**

Students need to experience a country's art and people to truly understand its culture, but not all students can study abroad.

## **Solution**

Students will explore the development of modern Spanish culture through a media-rich textbook developed in WebCT. An extensive source of video and audio, along with supporting readings, will be digitized and organized into 12 chapters, providing a global perspective of the historical development of Spain through film, art, and literature.

## **Technologies Used**

Courseware (WebCT development), Digital Audio, Digital Video

## **Project Abstract**

This project will provide undergraduate students at Hopkins with a stimulating way to learn about the history, the culture, the art, and the literature of Spain through a series of online multimedia activities. Particular emphasis will be given to audiovisual materials (paintings, architecture, sculptures, and songs from medieval Spain up to the present). Film clips will be used to dramatize facts of culture and history. WebCT will be the portal for all these activities. Each of the 12 chapters will be accompanied by a series of activities published on the Web that students must complete as homework for the course. These activities will consist of exercises in the skills of listening comprehension, reading comprehension, and written expression, as well as self-correcting vocabulary exercises and a series of threaded conferences posted on the WebCT server for each chapter of the course. We hope to achieve active student participation in the online debates and discussions. The audio-visual components of the class will serve as a way to stimulate the students' curiosity towards the fascinating traits of Spanish culture as it has developed from the collapse of Roman domination to the 20th century.

Our rationale for this project is based on research that the incorporation of new technologies in the foreign language and culture classrooms enhances the learning experience and increases language

proficiency. In addition, it will also offer us an opportunity to train our graduate students in this area, one that has become increasingly more important in today's academic job market. The graduate fellows selected for the project are Boncho Dragiyski and Manuel Colás-Gil. Both of them are familiar with the use of electronic resources for learning and multimedia applications at JHU. Mr. Dragiyski and Mr. Colás-Gil will be responsible for the creation of all of the pedagogical material, activities and exercises. Dr. Encinas will provide the project concept, subject matter expertise and project management throughout the duration of the fellowship. The project will be considered successfully completed after all the units for the final, twelfth chapter have been published, and all unit activities have been checked and evaluated by the three members of the team. After the end of the fall semester, any needed revisions will be done by the Tech Fellows.

The approach that we aim to follow could be used as a prototype for other Language and Culture classes at the Romance Languages Department, and could be very easily modified and extended to other venues offered in other departments in the Arts and Sciences division. All advanced Spanish courses and all introductory courses in Spanish literature could benefit considerably from this project, since it will enhance and facilitate collaboration among faculty within all the different sections beyond intermediate-level Spanish.