

Project Year

2011-2012

Project Title

Creating an Online Version of Italian Elements I and II

Project Team

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Audience

Students enrolled in the online version of *Italian Elements I and II* courses (210.151 and 210.152) as well as students seeking future enrollment in traditional face-to-face Italian language courses.

Pedagogical Issue

Currently the *Italian Elements I and II* sequence is offered only once a year (*Elements I* in the fall and *Elements II* in the spring). However, some students place into *Elements II* in the fall, and must wait until the spring to enroll. This often leads to a loss of interest in the language, or to the student deciding to take another language instead. Although classroom-based *Italian Elements I and II* courses have been offered during the summer, often student enrollments are not sufficient to run these courses.

Solution

Developing an online version of the *Italian Elements I and II* courses would allow us to address two issues. Students who place into *Elements II* could take the course in the fall, and continue with *Intermediate I* in the spring. At the same time, we hope that the possibility of enrolling in the online version *Italian Elements I or II* for credit during the summer, allowing students to take the course remotely, will attract new students both from the Hopkins community and from other universities.

Technologies Used

Digital Audio & Video, Adobe PDF, Blackboard, Photoshop, PowerPoint, HTML, PHP, Web Design

Project Abstract

This project seeks to create an online version of the *Italian Elements I and II* courses that will meet the needs of both summer and regular term students. The materials that will be developed for the online courses will also be used to enhance and strengthen the online components of the face-to-face *Elements I and II* courses offered during the fall and spring semesters. The team of instructors includes Alessandro Zannirato, who brings experience with second language acquisition and foreign language curriculum development, and Janet Gomez, a PhD candidate in Italian, who has extensive experience in the development of hybrid academic courses. The team will explore the use of technologies already available through the university (for example, Adobe Connect and Blackboard), and of technologies available for free, such as Skype and Google Voice, to adapt the materials that are already being used in the traditional face-to-face *Elements* courses. A variety of collaborative activities will be created, allowing students taking the course from remote locations to interact with each other and engage in real-life, task-based activities, both oral and written. The team will also explore the possibility of using

PHP or Hot Potatoes to create self-correcting exercises, or will integrate self-correcting exercise packages already available on the market. The goal is to offer the *Italian Elements I and II* courses online every term and to attract new students during the summer by offering the advantage of taking language classes at Hopkins remotely.