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Vocabulary Acquisition and Technology, German I/II, Grade 10-12

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High Impact Fellows Project Overview

Project Title, Course Name, Grade Level

Vocabulary Acquisition and Technology, German I/II, Grade 10-12

Team Members

Student(s): *Travis Trojan*

High School Teacher: *Dr. Arthur Turfa*

School: Blythewood High School

Wofford Faculty: *Dr. Beate Brunow*

Department: German

Brief Description of Project (<150 words)

Information technology plays an important role at Blythewood High School and the recent purchase of chrome books for students will be part of our project. All students will have access to chrome books, and Dr. Turfa also uses the social learning network “Edmodo” to communicate with his students. The project focuses on developing lessons for beginning German classes that combine knowledge and understanding of German-speaking cultures with communication. This approach reflects the current ACTFL standards for foreign language learning (preparing for the 21st century) with the guiding learning principle: “Knowing how, when, and why to say what to whom.” The lessons developed by the student fellow will pay special attention to vocabulary acquisition with the goal to strengthen the ability to communicate in meaningful and appropriate ways the “why,” “whom,” and “when.” Technology will play a crucial role for assessment of student learning.

List of Materials Required and Costs, if Applicable

Usable computers or chromebooks.

Computer for powerpoints.

Worksheets.

Project Proposal: Vocabulary Acquisition and Technology

Time:

September 2012 – April 2013

Team Members:

Blythewood High School Teacher Mentor: Dr. Arthur Turfa

Wofford Student Fellow: Travis Trojan

Wofford Faculty Mentor: Dr. Beate Brunow

Overview:

The German class at Blythewood High School meets M-F for 90 minutes in the fall and spring. Information technology plays an important role at Blythewood High School and the recent purchase of chrome books for students will be part of our project. All students will have access to chrome books, and Dr. Turfa also uses the social learning network “Edmodo” to communicate with his students. The project focuses on developing lessons for beginning German classes that combine knowledge and understanding of German-speaking cultures with communication. This approach reflects the current ACTFL standards for foreign language learning (preparing for the 21st century) with the guiding learning principle: “Knowing how, when, and why to say what to whom.” The lessons developed by the student fellow will pay special attention to vocabulary acquisition with the goal to strengthen the ability to communicate in meaningful and appropriate ways the “why,” “whom,” and “when.” Technology will play a crucial role for assessment of student learning.

Goals

- Students will gain a deeper understanding of contemporary German culture through the use of realia (authentic objects) and games. The student fellow, in collaboration with the faculty mentor and teacher, will develop units on the following topics: Hobbies, Food, Travel, and Sport.
- Students will be able to use new vocabulary to communicate in meaningful and appropriate ways. The student fellow, in collaboration with the faculty mentor and teacher, will develop specific exercises that focus on vocabulary acquisition and on the use of new words in authentic and meaningful contexts.
- Student learning will be assessed. The student fellow, in collaboration with the faculty mentor and teacher, will develop quizzes on Edmodo. The quizzes reflect current

research on vocabulary assessment and will incorporate findings from the literature that were discussed between the student fellow and faculty mentor in the fall semester.

- The student fellow, in collaboration with the faculty mentor and teacher, will integrate the use technology into the proposed units and lessons (Voicethread, chrome books, Edmodo).
- The student fellow will apply his knowledge and understanding of German-speaking cultures and language in cultural contexts, including intercultural connections and comparisons, and he will develop his communication skills in the foreign language. He will gain a deeper understanding of teaching methods, assessment, and lesson planning. The student fellow, in collaboration with the faculty mentor and teacher, develops a few lessons that he will teach/co-teach at Blythwood High School in the fall and spring semesters.
- The High School Teacher Mentor will be able to use the developed units and lessons as well as the quizzes in future courses.

Units and Timeline

September 2012:

German-American Day:

One lesson, in which students will provide a short exercise and Power point presentation focusing on vocabulary based on German inventions, people, and culture that have made an effect on American culture, and loan words between the two languages that have made and still make striking connections between the two languages.

November 2012:

Weather:

A short unit on weather, in which students will actively use weather vocabulary to talk about the weather conditions in their city as well as in Germany, Austria, and Switzerlerland. The lesson will provide insights into geography by exposing students to the different weather conditions in northern and southern Germany, as well as in Austria and Switzerland.

January-April 2013

Food:

Students will be exposed to German foods and dishes provided in their textbooks, by the teachers, and by their own research in order to construct their “restaurant” menus. To design their menus, they will use their chrome books so that they may creatively explore

and expand their experience with word, while applying the new vocabulary. Students will use these menus to practice basic waiter to customer conversation.

Student learning will be assessed with a quiz on Edmodo

Purchase: German food - \$20

Travel

Students will use realia, such as bus and train schedules to talk about public transportation. They will use maps to trace train connections. They will be able to give directions and ask questions about schedules and locations.

Student learning will be assessed with a quiz on Edmodo

Purchase: Universal Game Board Set- \$200

Hobbies and Sport

Students will use realia, such as images and video clips to investigate the role of sport in German culture. In addition, they will use selected websites to learn more about hobbies and the cultural differences related to the organization of school clubs and clubs organized by local associations.

Student learning will be assessed with a quiz on Edmodo

Purchase: 4 Sets of Cool Cubes- \$50

Easter

Students will read about traditions around the Easter holidays and they will engage creatively in an Easter decoration activity in class that will prompt them to use new vocabulary.

Student learning will be demonstrated through artifacts.

Purchase: Craft materials \$20