

OK as the start of Project 2 Or maybe even 3
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FL 508
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4/17/2008

Curriculum development & World Frenches.
~~Social studies and world languages~~

The foreign language curriculum which I propose will promote a world languages perspective through the exploration of various countries in which French is used, and the cultures that accompany them. The curriculum can ultimately be adapted for use with French, Spanish or English. The course will be conducted entirely in French and will encourage authentic interaction and negotiation of meaning through group work in an effort to accomplish a final product according to the French speaking country they choose. Students will be responsible for designing a set of informational materials which can subsequently be used in the French American School in Portland to supplement an existing curriculum. Exploration of another country could result in an emphasis on topics such as social studies, geography, history, environmental science, as well as several other topics. Ultimately, the information to be included in the final project will be determined by the members of each group in order to allow students to pursue a subject area of their own choosing. In this way, this course could meet the needs of all students who hope to pursue a career in teaching, regardless of the specific subject matter or teaching context that they are most drawn toward.

While the students prepare materials in a given subject, they will also be engaged in making conscious choices regarding what to include in the materials and why. The course would challenge the students to evaluate the pedagogical objectives of the activities and materials that they design. Throughout the ten-week course students would be required to produce a variety of materials and exercises building up toward, and preparing them for the final project. These

good on
negotiation
meaning

various assignments would be based on the various objectives presented in the existing curriculum of the elementary school. Rather than launching students immediately into creating their own materials which can often be rather intimidating, it could be beneficial to initially give students an introduction to curriculum design and course goals and objectives. Following this brief introduction to pedagogy, the instructor could then present students with a hypothetical objective, as well as the materials and techniques that were used to accomplish that objective.

Students would be asked to critique the specific objective as well as the materials that were used;

Will need
lots of CBI
at level of
particular
skills
graphics,
(DTP)

this could be done by means of a general class discussion, or possibly in small groups with the aid of a checklist to analyze the efficacy of the approach. Students would then present on the positives and negatives of the materials, giving possible suggestions as to how they would modify the activities to better achieve the objective.

While this type of activity remains rather abstract at the moment, I believe that would-be teachers gain a wealth of new insights while collaborating with others and therefore the process of discussing a variety of objectives and activities will not only be beneficial to their professional development, but also to their language skills.