



Intercultural Learning via Videoconferencing

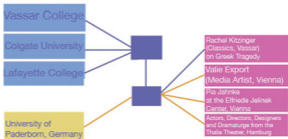


Pedagogical goals

1. **Going to the source** by giving students the opportunity to interact with native speakers and international artists, scholars, and experts
2. **International collaboration** by teaching classes together with colleagues in the US and in Germany
3. Promoting **intercultural learning** by having students enter into dialogue and conduct research projects with German students from Paderborn and Potsdam/Berlin

Courses using this technology

1. College Course 301: History, Memory and the Legacies of the Holocaust
 2. Senior Seminar 355: Body, Language, Power in Contemporary German Speaking Culture
- a. Advanced Intermediate German: Introduction to German Media Studies



Software and hardware tools

Video conferencing Facilities in CC 204.

Powerpoints were used as part of the video conference.

Email, skype, and facebook allowed students to communicate outside of the video conferences.

"The video conference with Professor Baßler was awesome. I didn't think I'd be able to listen to an academic lecture in German but I did understand most of it and I even asked a question." (Student from Intermediate German, Fall 07)

"I am starting to get it now. Not every experience with Nazi Germany should be an exercise of affirming my identity through seeing the destruction of the Jews. ... This exchange and being able to work with the German students on this topic clued me into the universal human importance of this moment in history and its commemoration in all its diversity and irreducibility." (Mike, student in CC301 Fall 2005)

Collaborators

1. Jeffrey Schneider (German Studies at Vassar): to share about the use of video conferencing in the classroom and the facilities at Vassar College.
2. Maria Hahn (History, Vassar College) and Irene Dörmann (University of Paderborn) at Altes Mitteldeutsches Theater, Germany): co-teacher for "History, Memory and the Legacies of the Holocaust"
3. Margarethe Lamb-Fahlinger (Lafayette College), Dirk Hoffmann (Colgate University), Bernhard Doppler (University of Paderborn, Germany): co-teachers for "Language, Power, and the Body."
4. Markus Haffel (Language Fellow in 2007-08): to set up video conferences with Maria Baßler (University of Münster), expert in German lip-synch.
5. Steve Taylor and Brandon Decker from Media Resources.

Timeline

- NEH grant, Oscar Ignoffo, Charles Foundation, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Free items and the Dean of the Faculty office for the "History, Memory, and the Legacies of the Holocaust" course.
Carson Fay Grant grant for "Language, Power, and the Body".
Usually, the video conferencing does not take much time or money to set up. It is so potent to coordinate time and dates with the teachers or experts concerned. They can needs to be research in advance and technicians need to be there for support. Addresses and machine specifications need to be exchanged through the technicians of the different schools. If there are one-on-one from three participating sites, a bridge needs to be set-up, which involves costs.