USING IPODS AND ITUNES U TO ENHANCE ORAL EXPRESSION, AURAL COMPREHENSION, AND CULTURAL AWARENESS IN INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

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OVERVIEW
Third-generation iPods were first provided to all students in two pilot sections of French 63 (intermediate French) in Fall 2005. Audio material was provided for students via the Duke Content Server for download onto iPods, to increase and normalize access to the French language (taking this out of the classroom and labs). Students in turn used iPods to record oral production weekly and used the Duke Content Server to submit this material for their professor’s review.

In Spring 2006, this pilot was extended to all sections of French 63 and enhanced. Students upgraded from third to fourth generation iPods and switched to iTunesU to obtain material and Blackboard to send their own production to professors. In addition, instructors used fifth generation (video) iPods and Duke iTunesU to bring video clips into multiple classrooms at once, material that was used:
- To provide cultural background and help students over the hurdle of unfamiliarity inherent to many foreign-language texts.
- To provide entertaining or thought-provoking ways to evoke French vocabulary and conversation, while simultaneously exposing students to French culture.
- To assess aural comprehension, both in the classroom and on multisection exams.

SPONSORS
- Duke Center for Instructional Technology
- Foreign Language Technology Services

TECHNOLOGY USED
- 3rd, 4th and 5th generation iPods
- iPod microphones,
- iTunesU
- Audacity
- Blackboard
- Duke Content Server