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Outsourcing LAC: Ideas on How to Culturally Expand Beyond the Bounds of the Classroom
Creating a syllabus: Think outside the “box” (i.e. classroom)

- Use Lecture class as a *point de départ* but don’t be limited by it
- Browse past LAC sections
- Know your class (have they studied abroad? What are their majors? Do you have native speakers?)
- Know your own resources
- Be flexible -- go with the flow!
Most LAC students are overachievers -- depending on how the larger lecture class is structured, they’re usually willing to do a little extra work if it’s stimulating.

Past LAC classes are invaluable (for example, native French TA’s have access to textbooks we don’t) -- see what they’ve tried!

I had a native Parisian in my class who was majoring in International Studies. One student was Canadian and had studied abroad in Tunisia. Another spoke fluent Spanish and had been to Central America.

In addition to texts from newspapers and journals, what do YOU like to read -- use music videos, comedy clips, images, and even your francophone friends! (Gene) dig out past readings from your own French classes -- Hugo’s prediction for the EU…

You may be surprised by what your students really dig into (L’Oreal article on the universality of beauty seemed like a risk but the students really took off with ideas of Westernization and cultural difference). That syllabus you took so long writing may need to be altered!
I asked my students to talk about the unique aspects of a LAC course or about a favorite moment. Here are some of their responses!

- My favorite experience in this course was the week that Donato came to talk with us about the privatization of water in Africa. As American students it is very easy for us to talk with certainty about what is best for the rest of the world. But it was refreshing to hear from someone who lived in Africa, who has experience with the subjects that we talk about every week. And although Donato saw first hand the negative impact of globalization on his country, the Congo, he is not cynical; on the contrary, he has hope and ideas for a better future. If you like to speak a language, the LAC recitation is a perfect opportunity to practice without the annoyance of grammar drills or compositions!

- The LAC recitation has been truly unique for me in that it has given me the chance to practice my French in a subject that I really care about. For me, foreign language is not limited to literature or grammar rules, but it is living! Also, I have learned a lot from my fellow student and their experiences abroad. They are a lot smarter than me! I have found their different perspectives to be very interesting, especially dealing with politics affecting French speaking countries, a subject which before this class, I didn’t know a lot about. I really liked the recitation where a Lebanese woman visited us to speak about her experiences of being trilingual. She grew up learning three languages: French, English, and a dialect of Arabic. It’s always interesting to hear personal stories, and I personally enjoyed hearing how her family life and these languages helped her identify herself as uniquely Lebanese.

- I think the French recitation succeeded in giving me another perspective of the world. It was useful for me because I wanted to practice my French by discussing real issues, so this course was perfect. I feel that I understand the subjects of the course a bit more fully because I have analyzed them from different perspectives now. My favorite session was when an African man came to talk to us about conditions in Africa. It was very interesting to learn how the policies of the IMF and the World Bank affected the African people from someone who experienced it firsthand. It is totally different to read about these subjects than to listen to someone talk about their own personal experiences.

- I am a French exchange student at UNC, and this LAC course allowed me to revisit the themes of International Relations that I have already studied at my university in France, but from an American angle. This was an experience extremely rewarding and interesting because the French and American viewpoints diverge on several points. The way of perceiving the world is different and allows an examination of problems from another angle. The main lesson of this class for me was that it is always necessary to put one’s point of view on a subject into perspective.