

A photograph of Simpson College, a large brick building with a central tower and a prominent arched entrance. The building is surrounded by green trees and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a stylized orange font.

Immersion Retreat

for Language Teachers

August 3-4, 2012

Simpson College, Indianola, IA

Objectives:

To communicate entirely in French, German or Spanish for a 24-hour period and thereby gain additional linguistic knowledge and confidence in oral expression.

To explore a cultural theme through text, film, and discussion, and apply that content to the language classroom.

The Retreat Plan		
<p>French Retreat: Humor Humor and culture go hand in hand. For 24 hours, we will be laughing out loud (lol) or <i>morts de rire</i> (mdr), as we explore how the French make fun of themselves and of human nature in general, and connect our findings to culture.</p>	<p>German Retreat: Youth Culture in the DDR The government of the DDR alternately built its hopes for the future on the commitment of young people to the state and feared that demands for a modern youth culture would cause the fragile state to collapse. Young people in the DDR had to navigate the narrow path between cooption of their youthful energy and repression.</p>	<p>Spanish Retreat: Immigration and Emigration Immigration and Emigration are universal experiences that allow us to incorporate a variety of perspectives and cultures from around the Spanish-speaking world in our classrooms. For 24 hours, we will be a part of that experience; we will explore how these cultures view immigrants and how immigrants negotiate their new society</p>
Prior to the Retreat		
<p>French:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and read <i>Joachim a des ennuis</i> by Sempé and Gosciny. • Find and bring one or more humorous political cartoons in French. Be prepared to explain them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and bring one or more examples of French humor that you find really funny. 	<p>German:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and read <i>Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee</i> by Thomas Brussig. • Find one website about youth culture in the DDR. Be able to explain what the website can add to our discussion. 	<p>Spanish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and read <i>Antes de ser libres</i> by Julia Álvarez. • Prepare to share a story about immigration/emigration from your personal experience. • Find or bring one or more examples of a cartoon or advertisement that discusses immigration in the Spanish-speaking world.

Friday, August 3, 2012			
4:30 pm	Arrival and check in		
5:00 pm	Ice-breaker activities and international potluck (bring a dish to share)		
7:00 pm	Session 1		
	<p>French:</p> <p><u>Topic 1:</u> Laughing at Human Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of <i>Joachim a des ennuis</i> • Film clips from <i>Le Petit Nicolas</i> and discussion in relation to the reading • Analysis of episodes from <i>Un gars, une fille</i> 	<p>German:</p> <p><u>Topic 1:</u> Aspects of Youth Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of <i>Sonnenallee</i> • Film: <i>Der rote Kakadu</i> and youth culture of the 1950s 	<p>Spanish:</p> <p><u>Topic 1:</u> The Exodus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of <i>Antes de ser libres</i> • Analysis of film and music video clips from films such as <i>El norte, 14 kilómetros</i>, and artists such as Maná, Manu Cao. • Simulation/Case Study
10:30 pm	<i>Bonne nuit!</i>	<i>Gute Nacht!</i>	<i>¡Buenas noches!</i>

Saturday, August 4, 2012			
7:30 am	Breakfast with language groups		
8:00 am	Session 2		
	<p>French:</p> <p><u>Topic 2:</u> The French Laughing at Themselves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of clips from YouTube videos on stereotypes and French bureaucracy, • Comparison with scenes from <i>L'Auberge espagnole</i> and <i>Les Visiteurs</i> • Discussion: What does humor reveal about culture? 	<p>German:</p> <p><u>Topic 2:</u> "Official" Youth Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of film clips. Web and print sources about government efforts to enlist young people in support of the government • Aspects of everyday life for children and youth in the DDR • Trends in popular culture in the DDR 	<p>Spanish:</p> <p><u>Topic 2:</u> Crossing Borders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of film clips and YouTube video clips about the emigrant's pilgrimage. • Simulation/Case Study about the pilgrimage. • Comparison with <i>Antes de ser libres</i> and other works we have seen. • Discussion: What are the realities of migration?
11:00 am	Session 3		
	<p>French:</p> <p><u>Topic 3:</u> Humor as a Political Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of political cartoons related to the Muslim scarf affair 	<p>German:</p> <p><u>Topic 3:</u> Youth Culture and the Stasi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of Stasi documents relating to three different Stasi surveillance actions against young people 	<p>Spanish:</p> <p><u>Topic 3:</u> The Immigrant Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of political cartoons, advertisements and photo journalism documenting the immigrant from around the Spanish-speaking world.
12:00 pm	Lunch with language groups		
1:00 pm	<p><u>Topic 3 (cont.)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and analysis of political cartoons found by participants • Analysis of caricatures from different sources 	<p><u>Topic 3 (cont.)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fundamental challenge: Youth as opposition • Youth culture triumphant: Adaptations of youth culture to repression 	<p><u>Topic 3:</u> The Immigrant Experience (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulation of the immigrant experience: negotiating life in a new country. • Reflection on the experience of being an immigrant.
3:30 pm	Coffee and conversation with language groups		
4:30 pm	Session 4		
	<p>French:</p> <p><u>Topic 4:</u> Using Humor to Teach Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of classroom applications • Project planning 	<p>German:</p> <p><u>Topic 4:</u> Teaching Youth Culture in the DDR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of sources found by workshop participants • Project planning 	<p>Spanish:</p> <p><u>Topic 4:</u> Using the Emigrant and Immigrant Experience to Teach Culture and Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of classroom applications • Project planning
5:30 pm	Packing and final goodbyes		

The Retreat Leaders



Sharon Wilkinson, French

Patricia Calkins, German

Tracy Dinesen, Spanish

Mark Bates, Spanish

Carl Pullen, German

Cost:

Basic fee to cover room and board (based on double-occupancy, bring your own linens):	\$35
1 licensure renewal credit through Heartland AEA (optional): payable on the first day of the retreat	\$25
1 graduate credit through Simpson College (optional):	\$100

To register for any or all of these options or for more information,
please contact Tracy Dinesen at tracy.dinesen@simpson.edu.
Registration closes at the end of the day on July 27, 2012.

Minimum enrollment in each language area is 4.

A bientôt !

Bis bald!

¡Nos vemos pronto!