There is no clear consensus among second language researchers and practitioners how exactly collegiate second-year language instruction should be organized. Based on current professional debates regarding the teaching of foreign languages and cultures at the college level, we will articulate the communicative, literacy-oriented philosophy to our programs redesigned GER 612. Further, we will discuss concrete teaching approaches and instructional materials that we have adopted, modified and developed to help our learners to widen their communicative repertoire within culturally-rich contexts that inspire and prepare them for upper-division work.