

My Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy can be summarized into three areas; the student, the teacher, the profession.

The Student: I firmly subscribe to the idea of a learner-centered classroom. Students should be guided to learn correct principles and be allowed to discover and explore the content freely. The student should be introduced to successful strategies to help them achieve their academic and professional goals. Language students should be encouraged to speak the target language even if it means making mistakes. They should have the chance to practice communication using all four modalities and should have opportunities to interact with one another in meaningful contexts. They should be exposed to authentic culture and be encouraged to study abroad to gain global perspective on language and culture.

The Teacher: For the teacher, it is important to teach correct content clearly to the students and to teach that content in a way that will assure acquisition. This connection between content and delivery is at the heart of pedagogy. Effective teachers should be experts in their fields but should also be experts in the most effective teaching practices of their fields. Teachers should be actively engaged in their professional community so as to stay current with best practices. The teacher should be available to meet individually with students and to serve as mentor when needed. The teacher should also work with colleagues to establish camaraderie and to strengthen the department and program. The effective 21st century teacher will also work diligently to incorporate technology effectively into the classroom.

The Profession: The profession should consist of a network of interested educators all engaged in the progression of the field. It should be a collaborative community where resources and ideas can be exchanged. It should promote professional development and foster a feeling of excitement for the task at hand and be concerned with the needs of the educators as well as with the needs of the students. The profession of language education should contribute to interdisciplinary efforts by encouraging creative thinking with regard to the role of language learning in education.