

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

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My passion to teach and continuation of research and professional activities have always been shaped by a Christian worldview. My faith in Jesus Christ and the way he taught continually serve as an example for me as an educator. On a daily basis it is my goal to show love and compassion and encourage those around me to live a fruitful life based on Christian values and principles. As a teacher guided by faith, my goal is to demonstrate qualities that reflect what it means to truly be Christian. I am genuine with others, enthusiastic, energetic, inspiring, dynamic, devoted, and caring. My faith in Jesus Christ gives me the strength to work hard, participate, be diligent, and volunteer in different communities. As a result, I strive to teach by example and encourage students to be productive citizens and make a difference in a global society of endless possibilities. To accomplish these goals, I challenge students to think critically about the material at hand, and emphasize a communicative approach to build proficiency and fluency. I also encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities hosted by the university and community, stress the importance of study abroad in the Spanish-speaking world, and accentuate the role of mentoring.

While many teachers remain anchored to textbooks, I go beyond the text and use methods of teaching that address the diverse needs of all students. The introductory and intermediate courses I teach highlight the four basic language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) and through a natural approach I am able to aid students develop an ability to communicate satisfactorily in Spanish. One of the underlying goals in my classes is the improvement of fluency and accuracy so students can express themselves in the target language to carry out basic daily needs and necessities. By the time these students are in advanced Spanish, I continue to work with them closely and challenge them to think critically to ultimately create with the language at a higher level. In all classes I also aspire to help students grow spiritually and intellectually by reminding them to read scripture regularly, follow the word and teachings of the *Bible*, and use prayer and meditation as a means to communicate with God.

In addition, students are also encouraged to attend cultural activities provided by the university and broader community. Students should become active participants to serve and make a difference. It is important for them to contribute to the well-being of society and spread the word of Christ. They must show unity, care, and compassion for others and pursue a life of honesty, dependability, humility, respect and integrity. The purpose of attending these activities is to introduce students to the many facets of the Hispanic world and broader community. Some of the cultural events on campus and in the community I encourage students to attend include: lectures, visiting artists, museum exhibitions, concerts, films, field trips, and even dance and music lessons. Furthermore, I encourage students to participate in the Spanish Club, *La hora del café*, theatrical performances, and study abroad programs. Studying abroad is such an important step for students to become bilingual and multicultural. It is also a wonderful opportunity for students to educate others about Christ and the sacred word of the Lord. Students can embark on a spiritual adventure to inform others that Jesus is God in human form and that he is our Savior.

Lastly, I enjoy mentoring students. Jesus was the best mentor to ever live! As Jesus would have done, I aspire to help students achieve their goals by showing that I care about their progress, and try to help them with any difficulties they may be experiencing. Like a shepherd, I want to guide them spiritually and religiously, socially, intellectually and professionally. I am very fortunate to have a notable mentor in my life that helps me with decisions, career goals, and difficult times. My mentor changed my outlook on life and I hope to follow his example with my students. Mentoring is very important in that it establishes a professional relationship between students and the teacher, and provides mutual influence, enrichment, and respect.

Teaching is a fruitful experience for students and instructor alike. As an instructor of Spanish, I enjoy motivating students to communicate creatively in the language and explore the many facets of Hispanic culture. Most importantly, I want to guide students to seek out religious truth, instill in them Christian values and principles, motivate them to become active leaders in their communities and globally, spread the word of Christ through experiences abroad, and challenge them to be the very best in life.

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