I’ll take a little Spanish with that, please.

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abstract

- This presentation will highlight the various skills and topics that are studied and learned in a second language classroom.
- Benefits of studying a second language will be identified.
- Participants may be asked to share their second language learning experiences.
- There will be time to ask any questions about AU’s Spanish program.
Second language learning experiences

- Who studied a foreign language?

- What do you remember learning?

- Looking back at that experience, what do you wish was different about it?
“Sometimes we need to change our students’ perceptions of the material we’re teaching. The way to do this is called reframing. Reframing involves providing a new context for the material that helps to break down the negative associations many students come into class with. I’m sure you have heard students say......”  Dave Burgess, *Teach like a pirate.* (2012). San Diego: DaveBurgess Consulting, Inc.
Most languages include four language skills

- Aside from a few isolated examples, most languages include four language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- For most of us, these skills are not developed evenly.
- Which skill is strongest for you? Was it the same in the second learning you studied?
The uneven development of these four language skills

- When you think about reading, writing, speaking and listening, do schools **emphasize** some of these skills over others? Why?
- Are these the same skills that one will use **outside** of the classroom?
- What makes reading, writing, speaking and/or listening **easier** or **harder** for certain individuals?
So what does second language instruction include?

- Second language instruction includes **grammar**.

- Examples: object pronouns, the subjunctive mood, the active and passive voices.

- Oftentimes, students have “Ah-ha” moments related to English grammar in a second language class.
What does second language instruction include?

- Second language instruction includes **vocabulary development**.

- So much of the Spanish language has Latin roots and learning Spanish can help with the knowledge of new English words.

- Example: **dulcify**
What does second language instruction include?

- Word of the Day for Sunday, February 9, 2014
- **dulcify** \DUHL-suh-fahy\, verb:
  1. to make more agreeable; mollify; appease.
  2. to sweeten.
- The delectable little Dutch songs with which she used to **dulcify** the house grew less and less frequent, and she would forget her sewing, and look wistfully in her father’s face as he sat pondering by the fireside.
- derived from the Latin word *dulcis* meaning "sweet." It entered English around 1600.
What does second language instruction include?

- Second language instruction can incorporate **critical thinking**. When cultural values or traditions are explored, students can be asked which they prefer, which they will include in their own lives, how different cultures do things differently and why.

- Example: family structures
What does second language instruction include?

- Second language instruction should encourage students to maintain or establish an open mind since they are exposed to **how things are done differently** by diverse individuals in a variety of settings.

- Example: eating a meal
What does second language instruction include?

- Second language instruction includes **culture**. For example, it is fun to have students learn about different traditions and ways of living.

- Example: Day of the Dead
- Example: hot chocolate
What does second language instruction include?

- Oftentimes students develop **interpersonal skills** when studying a second language.
- The typical second language classroom involves a variety of activities and usually incorporates large group, small group, partner and whole classroom groupings.
What does second language instruction include?

- Oftentimes students develop **intrapersonal skills** when studying a second language.
- In Spanish courses at AU, we talk about study skills, short and long-term goals, and the metacognitive nature of learning.

- Example: vocabulary
Spanish at AU...

- It is important to know a bit of the history of Aurora, especially with regards to the east and west “division.”
- Native Spanish speakers are welcome in any AU Spanish course.
- Native English speakers and native Spanish speakers are encouraged to work together to develop Spanish and English language skills.
Conclusions

In conclusion, second language learning is much more than JUST learning a language!

- Second language learning incorporates grammar, vocabulary development, exposure to new ideas, culture, critical thinking, and communication skills.

- Knowledge of a second language is a great “add on” for any major.
“I’ll take a little Spanish with that, please.”

- Hopefully, you have learned a little about second language learning and can share this knowledge with our colleagues and students.
“I’ll take a little Spanish with that, please.”

- I will continue to work towards hearing more of our AU community say, “I’ll take a little Spanish with that, please!”

- ¡Gracias por escucharme y pasar el tiempo conmigo!

- ¿Hay preguntas?