

UFLA

The Utah Foreign Language Association Newsletter

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Blair Bateman
UFLA President

Teaching Languages During a Pandemic

It goes without saying that the lives of all of us have been profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Few of us could imagine at our February UFLA conference that within a month, our teaching routines would change dramatically.

I recently had the opportunity to supervise a student teacher in a second grade Portuguese dual language immersion classroom. Because face-to-face classes had already been suspended, I worried that this student might not be able to complete his student teaching. Fortunately, his mentor teacher welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with him in adapting to an online teaching environment, so I gave them carte blanche to come up with whatever activities and assignments they could.

I was impressed by the innovations that this mentor teacher and student teacher developed. To accommodate the attention span of young learners, they created short videos using Loom to present new material and review old material. They assigned students to create their own videos on Flipgrid and comment on their classmates' videos. They held weekly conferences with students via Zoom and assessed their learning using IXL quizzes. In short, they did what all good teachers do: they adapted their teaching to the circumstances.

At BYU, my colleagues and I were given three days to master Zoom and redesign our own classes for online delivery. Having never taught an online course before, I was more than a little apprehensive. Fortunately, I quickly learned that the principles of good online teaching aren't that different from good face-to-face teaching: backward planning, use of visual and audio materials to keep students engaged, lots of pair and small group work (using Zoom breakout rooms), and assessment of students' learning (using integrated performance assessments, which I found are well suited to online classes).

I've been touched by the commitment of Utah language teachers to continue helping students learn under challenging circumstances. Nearly all of us have had to learn new technologies, and some of us have had to confront family circumstances that make it challenging to teach from home. By and large, though, I believe we've risen to the challenge, and we've become better teachers in the process. My hat (or rather, my face mask) goes off to all of you. Please give yourself a well-earned pat on the back. Here's to hoping that next year we'll be able to pat each other on the back in person.

-Blair Bateman UFLA President

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UFLA Supports Black Lives

The UFLA Board supports the statements put out by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and the Southwest Council on Language Teaching

ACTFL STATEMENT ON THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD AND SYSTEMIC RACISM IN THE U.S.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: HOWIE BERMAN
(703) 894-2900 X106

Alexandria, VA (June 2, 2020) - We are horrified by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Eric Garner. Sandra Bland. Philando Castile. Alton Sterling. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. Countless others. Their lives—and the hope that came with them—were cut tragically short.

ACTFL denounces systemic racism and police brutality against the Black community, Native and Indigenous communities, and communities of color in this country. As we have stated before, racism, bigotry, and white supremacy have no place in American society. We share in your grief and commit to do our part to combat these ideologies and systems of hate.

We are angry and our hearts are heavy. As language educators, we play a pivotal role in developing the world view of young people in this country. We have a responsibility—to our students, to our colleagues, and to our profession—to create a learning environment that is not only safe from racism and hate but antiracist. We must model to our students that our differences are to be cherished and respected, and we must speak out against racism and hateful ideologies when we see them. We vow to listen to students and teachers of color.

SWCOLT:

Black lives matter. Our words and actions matter. As the regional language teaching organization that unites nine diverse states, the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT) would first like to honor George Floyd and too many others who lost their lives to racial violence. We are saddened and angered by such tragedies and condemn these violent acts of murder. We see your pain and stand with you. We do not have all the answers but listening to one another with empathy and compassion is a good place to start. We recognize that as language teachers, we are in a unique position to expand our students' perspectives and world view. SWCOLT shoulders our responsibility to speak out against racism and create classrooms and schools which are not only free from hate, but antiracist. SWCOLT stands in solidarity with Black communities and people of color.

NEW UFLA WEBSITE

The UFLA Website has now moved to

<http://ufla.net>

It's a new name, but with all the content we have always had on the site. If you only visit once a year to register for the conference, come see what else we have on ufla.net (including copies of the newsletters going back over twenty years.) We will also post handouts from presentations at our upcoming conference on the new UFLA website.

We also hope you will join [UFLA on Facebook](#) and on our new Instagram account (@ufla_utah). Come participate in the conversation!



Constructing Measures to Assess Language Proficiency

Description:

Have you ever taken a test that you felt wasn't fair?

More importantly, have you ever written an unfair test and administered it to your students?

Many language educators have very little training in sound assessment principles, create tests that are poorly designed, and then use the results of those assessments to assign grades to their students. This workshop will discuss how to apply sound assessment principles with the ACTFL proficiency guidelines in order to construct proficiency measures for their students.

***Workshop will be held remotely if COVID-19 conditions do not permit it to be held live.**



Troy Cox, Ph.D.
Associate Director of Research
and Assessment Center for
Language Studies
Brigham Young University

UFLA Fall 2020 Workshop Presenter: Troy Cox

Troy L. Cox, PhD, has worked at Brigham Young University since 1996 is currently serving as the Associate Director of the Center for Language Studies where he conducts and publishes research in language proficiency, assessment, language acquisition, self-assessment and objective measurement. He regularly consults with ACTFL and has facilitated workshop throughout the United States and in Europe.

Language News

BYU Workshop

In light of current events, the BYU Workshop for Spanish teachers has been cancelled this year.

German Teacher Wanted

Summit Academy Independence is looking for a full-time elementary German DLI teacher. All candidates should fill out an application at <https://www.k12jobspot.com/>.

They also have need of German paraeducators at Summit Academy Independence assisting grades second through sixth. The German paraeducator would be helping out during Tier II instruction and working with groups of students on grade level, below grade level, or above grade level. The paraeducator will be teaching the small group lessons for various grade levels 2-6. The paraeducators would also be helping with recess and lunch. If there are students that cannot complete the desired hours and want to help, they are also accepting German speaking students that would like to volunteer. This will give them an opportunity to use the language and serve. School will start on August 18, 2020.

Part time paraeducator at Summit Academy Independence
Starting wages up to \$14.00 per hour
Role to teach groups of German Immersion students and regular English classes essential standards
Opportunity to show off your German skills to our students

UFLA Teacher of the Year

The deadline for Teacher of the Year nominations is October 15th. Remember that a Curriculum Vitae and letters of recommendation are needed! If you have any questions, please contact Electra Fielding. (electrafielding@weber.edu)

UFLA Mission

The Utah Foreign Language Association exists to promote the learning of world languages and cultures in the state of Utah and beyond. Specifically, the mission of UFLA is to:

- Support world language teaching and acquisition at all academic levels, including traditional instruction and dual language immersion programs
- Disseminate information and provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas and resources to support language teaching and learning
- Offer professional development opportunities for language teachers
- Recognize excellence in language teaching and learning
- Collaborate with regional and national language teaching organizations
- Advocate for public policy that promotes language learning and supports the needs of language teachers and students

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Advertising Information

The UFLA Newsletter is published three times each year in September, January and May. All issues are distributed via e-mail to UFLA members as well as posted on the UFLA website.

Advertising rates are available at:
[UFLA Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Contact Branden Lansing at blansing@dsdmail.net with any questions or to place an ad.