

Deborah Cafiero

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Education

Yale University, Ph.D., Department of Spanish and Portuguese, 1997. Concentration: Contemporary Peninsular literature. Dissertation: Reading *La novela negra*: Post-Franco Detective Fiction in Spain

University of California, Berkeley, M.A., Department of Spanish and Portuguese, 1991

Universitat de Barcelona, summer programs, beginning and intermediate Catalan, 1989-1990

University of Chicago, A.B. *magna cum laude*, double major, Spanish and English, 1989

Teaching experience

Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Romance Languages, U. of Vermont, 2018-present. Courses include all those previously taught as well as the following:

- *Spanish Composition and Conversation: Migrant Tales*: Fifth semester course on immigrants and the U.S.-Mexico border
Innovations include a backwards course design that fully integrates advanced-level linguistic goals, the narrative construction of migrant reality, and intercultural comparison
- *Elementary Spanish 1 online*: First semester Spanish online
Innovations include extensive use of synchronous and asynchronous student communication such as discussion boards, blogs, text chats, video chats and video posts

Lecturer, Dept. of Romance Languages and Linguistics, U. of Vermont, 2010-2017

- *Introduction to Hispanic Literature*: Sixth semester survey of Hispanic literature
Innovations include various strategies for collective creation of meaning and emotional connection with texts, such as reading aloud (“Listen for the tone: Hearing voice in a foreign language,” NeMLA Convention 2018)
- *Spanish Composition and Conversation*: Fifth-semester advanced Spanish
Innovations include wikis for collective creation of meaning (“How online collaboration creates a learning community through literature,” ACTFL Convention 2017)
- *Intermediate Spanish 1 & 2*: Second year Spanish
Innovations include the design and implementation of *escolero.com*, an interactive target-language homework platform (“Using a simple online tool for a ‘flipped’ classroom: *escolero.com*,” ACTFL Convention 2013) and online conversations with native speakers (“Skyping to reach national standards for foreign language education,” ACTFL Convention 2014)

- *Elementary Spanish 1 & 2*: First year Spanish
Innovations include student text chat assignments and the extensive incorporation of music to enhance student engagement (“Musical contagion: My efforts to instill love through songs,” NeMLA Convention 2019)

Lector, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Yale University, 2008-2009

- Elementary Spanish 1
- Elementary Spanish 2

Adjunct professor, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Southern Connecticut State U., 2007-2008

- Elementary Spanish 1

Conference presentations / Grants

“The art of good enough: How to sustain continuous pedagogical improvement.” ACTFL Convention 2019, Washington, D.C.

“Memory and nostalgia in the literary detective.” NeMLA Convention 2019, Washington, D.C.

“Musical contagion: My efforts to instill love through songs.” NeMLA Convention 2019, Washington, D.C.

“Listen for the tone: Hearing voice in a foreign language.” NeMLA Convention 2018, Pittsburgh, PA

“How online collaboration creates a learning community through literature.” ACTFL Convention 2017, Nashville, TN

“Skyping to reach national standards for foreign language education.” ACTFL Convention 2014, San Antonio, TX

“Using a simple online tool for a ‘flipped’ classroom: escolero.com.” ACTFL Convention 2013, Philadelphia, PA

Instructional Incentive Grant 2012, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont.
Awarded for the design and implementation of escolero.com, a target-language homework platform combining authentic text and video with auto-graded exercises and online discussion

Training and Professional Development

Certified Rater for the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL), the ACTFL online assessment for interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive linguistic performance. Rater certified in February 2019 in Interpersonal Listening/Speaking and Presentational Writing in Spanish.

World Readiness Standards: Teaching Cultural Products, Practices and Perspectives, led by Christina Frei, Executive Director of Language Instruction, University of Pennsylvania, on September 7, 2018. Workshop focused on teaching intercultural competence in foreign language classes and across the foreign language curriculum.

Teaching Online Certificate, online certificate program with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), February-May 2018. Intensive mentorship program for teaching foreign languages online, with a focus on Spanish.

Teaching Effectively Online, online course with the Center for Teaching and Learning at UVM, May-June 2017. General principles of effective online instruction and specific preparation of an online version of Introductory Spanish I.

Designing for Learning, workshop series with the Center for Teaching and Learning at UVM, Spring semester 2016 with two class observations in Fall semester 2016. Course redesign according to Universal Design for Learning principles and best practices for student engagement.

Using Just-in-Time Teaching to Promote Critical and Reflective Thinking, workshop sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning at UVM, May 20, 2015, led by Scott Simkins, Director of the Academy for Teaching and Learning at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, NC.

OPI Training Workshop (Spanish), 5-day workshop for the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) in Spanish, ACTFL, Middlebury, VT, July 2013. Training in ACTFL proficiency levels and administration of the ACTFL Spanish OPI.

Writing in the Disciplines Mini-Institute on Grading and Assessment, workshops on grading, assessment and feedback, Writing in the Disciplines at UVM, Fall 2012. Researched and developed best practices for rubrics, instructor feedback, and assessment-based course design.

Writing in the Disciplines Institute, 4-day intensive workshop on designing writing-intensive courses, Writing in the Disciplines at UVM, May 2011. Researched and developed curriculum design, assignment design, instructor feedback, and peer learning.

The Neuroscience of Teaching and Learning workshop, workshop series conducted by UDL at UVM, February-May 2011. Researched and developed best practices for maximum student learning and long-term retention of course material.

Universal Course Design workshop, extensive curricular and course design training in Universal Course Design principles, UDL at UVM, 2010-2011.

Teaching methodology course, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Yale University, 2009.

Service

Language Performance and the Foreign Language Classroom, Department of Romance Languages, University of Vermont, November 6, 2019. Prepared and led departmental workshop on the concept and application “performance” as defined by ACTFL.

Language 096: Exploring Romance Languages, Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics, University of Vermont, Spring 2019. Prepared and led class on January 28 titled “Questions of proficiency: Deborah Cafiero on ACTFL standards.”

Common Spanish Grammar Assessments, Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics, University of Vermont, Fall-Spring 2016-2017. Discussion and preparation of common grammar objectives for all levels of Spanish courses from Elementary I-Intermediate II. Preparation of grammar assessment specifically for Spanish Intermediate I (SPAN 051).

Teaching for Proficiency, Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics, University of Vermont, February 18, 2016. Prepared and led workshop on language proficiency levels and proficiency-based teaching.

Hybrid Course Researcher, Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics, University of Vermont, Spring semester 2012. Research, correspondence, surveys, and other information-gathering (8-10 hrs./week) on the subject of hybrid language course design and implementation, including organizing a departmental workshop and preparing a final report.

Scholarships and Honors Societies

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 1989-1993 and 1995-1996

Phi Beta Kappa (University of Chicago chapter)

Memberships

Modern Languages Association

Northeast Modern Languages Association

American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages