

It is my belief that learning a foreign language while simultaneously exploring new cultures provides many paths of expression and growth for today's student. It is my goal to enthusiastically guide my students through their discovery of the French language and the diverse francophone world.

I began teaching at San Diego State University as a Graduate Teaching Associate while pursuing my Master of Arts degree in French. From that first semester in the classroom I knew that I was gifted as a foreign language teacher and was pleased to be one of the lucky few who adores what she does for a living. While aware that I had good classroom teaching "instincts" and a warm and open personality that students valued, I also understood the importance of instruction techniques, knowledge of educational theory, and classroom preparation; I sought out all three of these competencies with fervor.

I am a big supporter of peer-learning and have spent many hours in my colleagues' classrooms, watching their teaching methods and emulating their well-structured lesson plans. In addition, I took an excellent course titled "Adult Learning" that explored the theoretical elements of education and covered important topics such as effective assessment, diversity in the classroom, and learning theory. Finally, I took measures to be over-prepared for every class. My organizational skills have always been strong, but to be a university instructor running from class to class, constantly switching gears yet remaining focused, it is necessary for them to be impeccable. My efforts have been rewarded as, now a post-graduate, I teach French and Humanities classes at San Diego State as a Lecturer. In addition, this year I have begun teaching French classes at two community colleges.

I would like to close my statement by expressing how excited I am to incorporate emerging technologies and multimedia into my course work. For example, in Fall 06 I signed up to be one of the pilot instructors for Blackboard Voice Tools. I am using voice-based announcements and voice e-mails with my students and hence expanding the essential oral component of my language courses to outside the classroom. In addition, in all of my classes I use film, music, and visual art to not only present culture, but to also drive the scope and sequence of vocabulary and grammar and to develop reading and writing.

When I consider my long-range professional plans as a teacher of French, I am certain that I want to remain in the classroom; I adore teaching and want to continue to help students discover how much fun learning French can be.