

It is hard to articulate how much I cherish the real, concrete benefits of learning a language. Learning English when I was young changed my life in ways I could not have then imagined. As I continued to study other languages and cultures, I experienced not only intellectual growth, but also a deeper engagement with the world and others in it. I feel extremely lucky and humbled to be able to facilitate these experiences in the Spanish program at Centre College. My teaching has been enriched by the mentorship and camaraderie of my colleagues. Opportunities to teach abroad and think through the concept of “global citizenship” alongside my students have revitalized my vision of what a liberal arts education can do. Experiences like pouring concrete next to Salvadorans or attending a Candomblé ceremony in Brazil provided lessons that I could never teach or reproduce in a classroom in the United States.

In terms of methodology, my teaching is informed by embodied techniques that center joy, beauty, collaboration, and justice, like the Arts Literacy Project and Theatre of the Oppressed. Performance and dramatic activities are a part of the creative spirit that informs my pedagogy. I believe creativity is a form of critical thinking, that it fosters inclusion by letting students demonstrate their many skills and talents, and that it helps us ask the big questions from artworks, the world around us, and ourselves.

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