



Anna Gemrich, Ph.D.

Assistant Director of Lower
Division Spanish, University of
Wisconsin - Madison

Challenges

- Large departments with many instructors teaching the same course want flexible resources that accommodate diverse teaching needs and preferences as well as diverse learning styles.
- Speaking is a vital skill in learning a new language such as Spanish, and students need abundant practice both inside and outside of class to gain proficiency.

Solutions

- iLrn Language Learning Center
- Blitt/Casas/Copple's *Exploraciones Curso Intermedio*

Results

- Diverse and plentiful textbook activities, brought to life with iLrn's multimedia content and features, accommodate varied teaching preferences and learning styles.
- Voice-enabled features engage students in their learning while helping them build speaking and listening skills that are fundamental in Spanish courses.



Success Story

iLrn™ Accommodates Diverse Teaching Styles at the University of Wisconsin - Madison

As Assistant Director of lower division Spanish at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Anna Gemrich is focused on meeting the needs of both teachers and students. When her department's previous intermediate Spanish textbook introduced a digital component, Anna was concerned about its high learning curve and complex set-up. Instructors had been wanting a textbook change anyway, so a search led to Cengage Learning's *Exploraciones Curso Intermedio*. The new text, accompanied by the iLrn™ all-in-one online course management system and a multimedia eBook, offered a range of resources and teaching flexibility that satisfied everyone. "All of my instructors think *Exploraciones Curso Intermedio* is more culturally relevant and current than the prior textbook," she says. "Their enthusiasm for particular elements in the book and in iLrn — and the knowledge that they can teach the way they want — improves the teaching experience, the class environment, and the learning experience."

Activities and Options for Diverse Teaching and Learning Styles

Most Spanish classes are taught by teaching assistants (TAs), many of whom embraced iLrn. With iLrn, students can access their textbook online as well as resources and contextualized activities that engage them in learning to speak, listen, read, and write in Spanish. "Every chapter includes many creative activities in different formats," says Anna. "There's interesting cultural information and video clips from news programs that can be used for discussion purposes. There's enough oral material to allow instructors to introduce students to different accents, enough reading for the students to practice, and ample illustrations to generate conversation. We also really like the Connections and Comparisons feature in each chapter, which presents two brief essays that introduce culturally relevant topics that are applicable today."

Multimedia materials are embedded throughout the iLrn eBook, capturing students' interest as they practice and build language skills. "I enjoyed the movie shorts — they were very clever. They all had some plot twists and brought some sophistication to the classroom discussions," says Anna. "They keep the students engaged and interested, generate discussion, and make the students think. The accompanying comprehension questions are at just the right level."



“[The instructors’] enthusiasm for particular elements in the book and in iLrn — and the knowledge that they can teach the way they want — improves the teaching experience, the class environment, and the learning experience.”

Anna Gemrich

Assistant Director of Lower
Division Spanish

To learn more about this and other digital solutions provided by Cengage Learning, visit: www.cengage.com/LearningSolutions

Voice-Enabled Activities Reinforce Language Skills Outside of Class

iLrn allows students to become proficient in speaking and listening through voice-enabled features and activities. “When I observed the TAs, they all tended to use the parts of the program where the text reads a section out loud. It was helpful for the students to hear a different accent than that of their TA,” says Anna. Students can also click on a term in the eBook to hear its pronunciation, build their confidence and skills by recording and hearing their own speech, and gain additional valuable practice communicating in Spanish with their peers by using the *Share It!* class collaboration tool.

“I have many different instructors with different personalities and preferences, and the options in the textbook and iLrn allow them to use what they want in the way that they want — whether it be news clips, a movie short, or a short essay. The program offers the varied resources and flexibility that allow diverse personalities to find their groove without having to come up with their own material. In general, I’m very pleased.”



Cengage Learning is a leading provider of innovative teaching, learning, and research solutions for academic, professional, and library markets worldwide. The company’s products and services are designed to foster academic excellence and

professional development, increase engagement, improve learning outcomes, and deliver authoritative information to people whenever and wherever they need it. Through the company’s unique position within both the library and academic markets, Cengage Learning is providing integrated learning solutions that bridge from the library to the classroom. www.cengage.com

Copyright ©2015 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved.