

Title: It Starts with the Syllabus: Practical Steps to Learner-Centered Classes

Date: 23.11.2020

Hours 18.00 – 19.30

Speaker: Willow Barnosky

Description of the webinar:

Language educators strive to create engaging classroom environments in which students are motivated to improve their language skills. In this presentation, we will discuss how each hand-out, assignment, and classroom activity, depending on the tone, level of transparency, and amount of choice provided, provides us with the opportunity to ignite student interest and maintain high levels of student investment. We will examine examples of traditional and modern course syllabi, and consider how needs and interests surveys, class communications, activities, and assessments can affect learner motivation and encourage learner autonomy.

The presentation would be best for teacher trainees, new teachers, teachers who are looking for practical ideas for making their classes more student-centered, and teachers who are interested in syllabus design. It may not be as useful for highly experienced teachers who are already experienced with learner-centered teaching.



Willow Barnosky is an experienced TESL/TEFL professional. She has taught ESL and EFL in the United States, Japan, and South Korea in adult education, intensive language institutes, community college, and university contexts.

She possesses an MA from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies as well as a BA in Spanish from the University of Pittsburgh. Willow's career to date includes serving as the ESL specialist for a Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Adult Education, professional development center, where she traveled the state providing curriculum and instruction workshops and trainings for adult and college ESL instructors. She has also worked at a

university in Japan where she taught academic writing and at a language school in Korea teaching intensive English and Business English. Before teaching in Poland, she worked for community organizations in Silicon Valley in California, teaching English and literacy skills to adult learners.

During the first semester of the academic year of 2019/20 she conducted courses of advanced English to the students of English Philology at the University of Rzeszów through the English Language Fellow Program supported by the Department of State. She also ran a series of seminars for ESL teachers and delivered webinars for IATEFL Poland. In the 2020-2021 academic year Willow will be associated with the University of Opole through the Virtual English Language Fellow Program.