

## Dr. Carmen's Corner

### Going remote: planning, challenges, and more.

March 22, 2020

Since writing has always been therapeutic for me, and I sure feel like I could use some therapy these days, I've decided to start a blog. This is mostly for myself, but seeing the amount of resources that people are sharing with this whole "going remote business", I thought I would leave it public in case someone would consider these posts useful in some way, even if it's just through being reminded that many others are having similar feelings, challenges, etc. during this odd situation.

I'm not completely new to teaching online. I taught a hybrid Spanish class as a graduate student at UNC and a remote Medical Spanish course at A.T. Still University (Missouri) after I moved to Winston-Salem. However, the situation we are going through these days is a very different animal. Materials are having to be adapted quickly; decisions about the syllabi, assessment, and more are being made by instructors, coordinators, and administration; and then there's policy changes in attendance, grading... so much for a spring "break"! Remote classes start tomorrow, and I'm uneasy, to say the least. I have a bazillion things in my head and as many feelings about each one of them.

I teach three different classes this semester: SPA 112 (Elementary Spanish), SPA 212 (Exploring the Hispanic World), and SPA 328 (Spanish for the Health Professions).

**Challenge #1** is having three different preparations; **challenge #2** is being teaching 112 for the first time. But I also think about the plus side; **positive #1** is that I have amazing students, so they make things much easier for me with their enthusiasm and their sense of responsibility. Having to adapt materials to this new format is not easy, particularly for my Medical Spanish class. This course relies a lot on student participation through class discussion. As I always tell them, "this is not a class on medicine, but a class on communication." My goal is to make students better future providers for Spanish-speaking patients, linguistically capable, culturally knowledgeable, and simply caring and empathic professionals overall. **Positive #2**, these are highly motivated students, so their adaptability and eagerness to make remote teaching work is providing me with the energy I need to get it done.



**DR. CARMEN**

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