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### CATHERINE SIMPSON, PH.D.

Catherine is a Principal Lecturer in Spanish and teaches courses in Spanish language, literature, and film in the Department of Romance Languages. Having redesigned an Introduction to Spanish Literature course during ALSI 2019 and a Spanish Film course during CRDx 2025, she has implemented AL strategies in all her classes, as well as fostering AL across the Spanish Language Program.

#### I AM EXCITED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

How AL contributes to a more inclusive classroom, and how harnessing student creativity makes learning more meaningful.

#### MOST USED ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES

Concept Maps; Gallery Walks; Square-Pair-Share; Invented Dialogues

#### BIGGEST SURPRISE IN YOUR COURSE REDESIGN

For me, rethinking instruction around AL led to rethinking ALL areas of instruction. Once I started to engage in meaningful reflection on my teaching practices, doors opened to all sort of new possibilities.

#### GREATEST TRIUMPH IN ACTIVE LEARNING & COURSE REDESIGN

Seeing groups of students create detailed drawings of scary monsters in a haunted mansion—all in the service of better understanding a Gothic short story.

#### WORDS OF WISDOM

Develop a “Why not?” approach when considering new ideas. If there’s an assignment you don’t like grading, there’s a good chance retooling it could improve outcomes for you AND your students. And giving students various options to choose from for papers or final projects almost always results in better work.

#### MOST MEANINGFUL ACTIVE LEARNING MEMORY

When I had my microteach group act out (okay, *try* to act out) absurdly detailed instructions for climbing a staircase based on an experimental short story.

#### ADVICE FOR OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS

Don’t be afraid of change! I needed more class time to implement a lot of my new strategies after ALSI, and ultimately, I had to reduce our reading list. It was hard to let go of some literary works, but the quality of our engagement with the works that remained made it well worth it.