

Sara Ahnell, EdD, NBCT

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EDUCATION

Ed.D.	Curriculum and Instruction Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas	May 2023
	Dissertation: "Deconstructing and implementing high-leverage teaching practices with the integrated communicative approach: An instructional design framework for teaching novice learners in the secondary world language classroom" Major Professor: Dr. J. Spencer Clark	
M.Ed.	Foreign Language Education Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama	May 2012
B.A.	French Language and Literature Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama	August 2010
Graduate Certificate	Instructional Leadership Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama	December 2023

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

National Board Certification in World Languages for Young Adolescence in French (2018) and Maintenance of Certification (2023)

Alabama Class A Certification-French, 6-12, Class B Certification-Elementary French, PK-12

Alabama Class B Certification-English Language Arts, 6-12

Alabama Class A Certification-Instructional Leadership, PK-12

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator, Foreign Language Education
Auburn University, Auburn, AL August 2024-present

- Teach and coordinate undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in the foreign language education programs for German, French, and Spanish education (BS, MEd, and EdS degrees)
- Advise and mentor graduate students in foreign language education
- Supervise foreign language education student teachers
- Advise Education Specialist (EdS) degree candidates on their action research projects
- Lead the planning and implementation of programmatic and curricular changes for the foreign language education programs
- Develop and implement strategic marketing plans to expand the programs and recruit prospective students, including promotional materials, recruitment events, and social media
- Design and coordinate outreach events for various stakeholders, including professional development workshops for teachers throughout the Southeast
- Provide institutional service as assigned by the department head and engage in professional service within the discipline and in partnership with public schools in the region
- Participate in professional activities as needed to ensure the well-being of the foreign language education programs, department, and college

- French Program Chair and French Teacher, Grades 10-12
Auburn High School, Auburn, AL
January 2019-May 2024
- Design and implement research-based differentiated instruction incorporating authentic resources and effective digital tools for French I, II, III, IV, V, AP, and IB French classes
 - Create and administer assessments to evaluate student progress and proficiency and to prepare for the AP and IB exams
 - Supervise and mentor lab students and interns
 - Achieved a 100% student pass rate on IB French exams since 2019
- Instructor for Foreign Language Education Program
Auburn University, Auburn, AL
August 2013-May 2024
- Developed a content-specific classroom management course for world language teachers
 - Teach research-based practices and effective digital tools for classroom management to world language teachers, both interns and veteran teachers
 - Troubleshoot classroom management challenges with student teachers during internship and lab experiences
- Graduate Teaching Assistant
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
May 2020–May 2023
- Served as a teaching assistant for the Masters in the Art of Teaching (MAT) Program
 - Mentored pre-service and in-service world language teachers (Chinese, French, German, Spanish), evaluated their teaching and gave feedback during the program (both practicum and internship)
 - Mentored pre-service elementary teachers (K-6), evaluated their lessons and gave feedback on their teaching during the program (both practicum and internship)
- Foreign Language Department Chair and Teacher, Grades 9-12
Opelika High School, Opelika, AL
January 2013-January 2019
- Founded the first AP French program at OHS
 - Conducted regular department meetings and managed department funds
 - Designed and implemented research-based differentiated instruction incorporating authentic resources and digital tools for French I, II, III, AP IV, and Honors English 10 classes
 - Created and administered assessments to monitor and evaluate student progress and proficiency
 - Supervised and mentored lab students and interns
- French and English Language Arts Teacher, Grades 9-12
Sylacauga High School, Sylacauga, AL
August 2012-January 2013
- Designed and implemented research-based differentiated instruction and digital tools for French I and English 10 classes
 - Created and administered assessments to monitor and evaluate student progress and proficiency
- Long-term Substitute, French I-II, Grades 9-12
Smiths Station High School, Smiths Station, AL
January 2012-March 2012
- Student Teacher, French I-III, Grades 9-12
Central High School, Phenix City, AL
August 2011-December 2011
- French Teacher (part-time), French I, Grade 8
Auburn Classical Academy, Auburn, AL
August 2010-May 2011
- Substitute Teacher
Auburn City Schools, Auburn, AL
August 2010-May 2011

AWARDS AND HONORS

Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) Teacher of the Year Finalist	2023
Alabama World Languages Association (AWLA) World Language Teacher of the Year	2023
Alabama World Languages Association (AWLA) French Teacher of the Year	2023
Kansas State University Mary Kay Martin Graduate Education Scholarship Award	2022
Kansas State University Graduate Teaching Fellowship, full tuition and stipend	2020-2023
Alabama World Languages Association (AWLA) Promising New Teacher of the Year	2015
Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society Inductee at Auburn University	2010

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AT THE POST-SECONDARY LEVEL

Courses Currently Teaching at Auburn University in 2024-2025

- Curriculum and Teaching I: Foreign Language Methods (CTSE 4070)
- Curriculum and Teaching II: Foreign Language Methods (CTSE 4080)
- Evaluation of Program in Area of Specialization (CTSE 7540)
- Organization of Program in Area of Specialization (CTSE 7530)
- Curriculum and Teaching in Area of Specialization (CTSE 7520)
- Practicum in Foreign Language Education (CTSE 7910/CTSE 4910)
- Field Project in Foreign Language Education (CTSE 8980)
- Directed Studies in Foreign Language Education (CTSE 7900)
- Clinical Residency in Foreign Language Education (CTSE 7920/4920)
- Classroom Management for the Foreign Language Classroom (CTSE 6220/5220/4220) *since 2013
- Literacy and Inquiry in the Content Areas: Grades 6-12 (CTRD 6710)

Courses Taught at Kansas State from 2020-2023

- Teaching Practicum (EDCI 800)
- MAT Masters Project (EDCI 890)
- Internship in K-12 Schools (EDCI 801)

Courses as GTA at Kansas State University from 2020-2023

- Content Area Literacy & Diverse Learners (EDCI 715)
- MAT Foreign Language Methods (EDCI 712)
- Action Research in Education (EDCI 760)
- Teaching Content Assessment for World Languages (EDCI 799)
- Secondary Foreign Language Colloquium I (EDCI 797)
- Secondary Foreign Language Colloquium II (EDCI 798)
- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (EDCI 702)
- Social Foundations for K-12 Education (EDCI 710)
- Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literature for Elementary (EDCI 792)
- Teaching Science and Math for Elementary (EDCI 791)
- Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in Elementary (EDCI 793)
- Teaching Diverse Learners (EDCI 716)
- Seminar in Curriculum and Instruction: Orientation to Teaching (EDCI 886)

SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH

Refereed Publications

Ahnell, S. (2024). Supporting New Language Teachers Through a Content-Specific Classroom Management and Mentorship Course. *The Language Educator*.
<https://tinyurl.com/sahnellTLE2024>

Ahnell, S. (2021). Dossier pédagogique: La Marseillaise et les valeurs culturelles pour les débutants. *The French Review*, 95(2), 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1353/tfr.2021.0273>

Published Dissertation

Ahnell, S. (2023). *Deconstructing and implementing high-leverage teaching practices with the integrated communicative approach: An instructional design framework for teaching novice learners in the secondary world language classroom* (Doctoral dissertation, Kansas State University). <https://hdl.handle.net/2097/42939>

Manuscripts Under Review

Ahnell, S. Resources and Approaches for Integrating High-Leverage Teaching Practices into Instructional Design for Novice Learners.

Manuscripts in Development

Ahnell, S. & Bley, S. Blueprints for Teaching Beginners: Building Transformative Novice Language Learner Experiences with the Integrated Communicative Approach.

Ahnell, S. & Baker, C. High-Leverage Classroom Management Practices for World Language Teachers.

Ahnell, S. Integrating High-Leverage Teaching Practices for Second Language Acquisition with the Integrated Communicative Approach.

Ahnell, S. Flow and Foreign Language Enjoyment Using the Integrated Communicative Approach with Novice Learners in the Secondary Classroom.

Workshop and Conference Presentations

*refereed ^invited !regional ~state +national #international

^**Ahnell, S.** (2025). *Increasing Student Engagement and Developing Interpersonal Speaking Tasks*. Workshop to be presented at Professional Development In-Service for Clayton Co. Schools, January 31st, in Jonesboro, GA.

^**Ahnell, S.** (2024). *Building Vocabulary with Comprehensible Input*. Workshop to be presented at Professional Development In-Service for Madison City Schools, October 9th, in Huntsville, AL.

^**Ahnell, S.** (2024). *Effective Classroom Management for New Language Teachers*. Workshop presented at Professional Development In-Service for Clayton Co. Schools, July 29th, in Jonesboro, GA.

*!**Ahnell, S.** (2024). *High-Leverage Practices and Formative Assessment: Making Language Comprehensible*. Session presented at annual conference of SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching), March 9th, in Atlanta, GA.

Workshop and Conference Presentations, continued

*refereed ^invited !regional ~state +national #international

- ^*~**Ahnell, S.** (2024). *High-Leverage Practices and Formative Assessment: Making Language Comprehensible*. Workshop presented at annual conference of AWLA (Alabama World Language Association), February 16th, in Birmingham, AL.
- ^**Ahnell, S.**, Bradford, K, & Welch, A. (2024). *Hacking the ACT: Tips, Tricks, and Strategies to Help Our Students Score Their Best*. Session presented at Auburn High School faculty professional development meeting, January 30th, in Auburn, AL.
- ^**Ahnell, S.** & Halperin, C. (2024). *Increasing Response Rates with Socratic Seminars and Brain Breaks for Student Engagement*. Workshop presented for Auburn High School schoolwide professional development day, January 3rd, in Auburn, AL.
- *!**Ahnell, S.** (2023). *Products, Practices, and Perspectives for Novice Learners: Une dégustation de fromage*. Session presented at annual conference of SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching), March 25, in Mobile, AL.
- *!**Ahnell, S.** (2022). *La Marseillaise et les valeurs culturelles pour les débutants*. Session presented at annual conference of SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching), March 31, in Norfolk, VA.
- *!Barry, S., **Ahnell, S.** & Wilson, K. (2019). *An Overview of Comprehensible Input and Communicative Output Tasks*, Session presented for annual conference of MIFLC (Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference), Oct. 10-12, in Auburn, AL.
- *~Barry, S. & **Ahnell, S.** (2019). *An Overview of Comprehensible Input and Communicative Output Tasks*, Session presented at annual conference of AWLA (Alabama World Language Association), February 16, in Montevallo, AL.
- ^! Barry, S., **Ahnell, S.** & Crouch, M. (2017). *Teaching Grammar Communicatively*, Workshop presented at annual conference of SCOLT (Southeast Conference on Language Teaching), March 17, in Orlando, FL.
- ^+ Barry, S. **Ahnell, S.** & Crouch, M. (2016). *Teaching Grammar Communicatively*, Workshop presented at annual conference of ACTFL (American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages), Nov. 17, in Boston, MA.
- *~Barry, S. **Ahnell, S.** & Crouch, M. (2016). *Teaching Grammar Communicatively*, Workshop presented at annual conference of AWLA (Alabama World Languages Association), January 29, in Troy, AL.
- *!Barry, S., **Ahnell, S.** & Taylor, K. (2013). *A Framework for Beginning Reading Instruction Using Authentic Texts*, Workshop presented at annual conference of SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching), April 11-13, in Birmingham, AL.

Invited Speaking Engagements

2024 Alabama World Language Association (AWLA) Conference Plenary Speaker, Birmingham, AL

RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST

Second language acquisition; high-leverage teaching practices; classroom management; pedagogical content knowledge; constructivism; sociocultural theory; teacher preparation; foreign language enjoyment; flow theory

SERVICE, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Alabama World Languages Association Board Member (Secretary), elected to serve from 2024-2025

CULTR Fall Professional Development Workshop Training Participant: Teaching French and Spanish to Little Learners Ages 3-7, Georgia State University, October 2023

Founder and Administrator of National Board Teacher Certification for World Languages Professional Learning Community Facebook Group with over 1.1K members nationwide, 2019-present

Auburn High School World's Fair Community Cultural Event Planning Committee Member, 2019-present

Auburn High School World's Fair Country Booth representative for France and Belgium, 2019-present

International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Training for SL and HL French B, Rice University, March 2019

French Club Sponsor, Auburn High School, 2019-present

French National Honor Society Sponsor, Auburn High School, 2019-present

Administrator of AATF *Le Grand Concours* (National French Contest) with students winning Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals each year, 2015-present

Founder and Leader of "Fit to Teach" Teacher Wellness and Fitness Group at Auburn High, 2023-present

French Club Sponsor, Opelika High School, 2013-2018

French National Honor Society Sponsor, Opelika High School, 2013-2018

Alabama French Convention Member Club Sponsor in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2020

Opelika High School Faculty Leadership Improvement Team Member, 2014-2018

Course Designer and Instructor, OHS Philanthropy 101 sponsored by The W. James Samford, Jr. Foundation, Opelika High School, June of 2015 and June of 2016

- Designed and taught a three-week course for rising seniors on philanthropy
- Mentored students on nonprofit site visits and in choosing a nonprofit for Samford Foundation funds donation
- Coached students in capstone presentations to nonprofits

LANGUAGES

English, native

French, Advanced proficiency (listening, reading, speaking, and writing)

German, Novice proficiency (listening, reading, speaking, and writing)

Spanish, Novice proficiency (listening, speaking, and writing); Intermediate reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

American Association of Teachers of French (AATF)

Alabama World Languages Association (AWLA)

American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

REFERENCES

Sue Barry, Ph.D.

Retired Professor and Program Coordinator of Foreign Language Education, Auburn University
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J. Spencer Clark, Ph.D.

Professor, Kansas State University
jspencerclark@k-state.edu, (785) 532-5525

Farrell Seymore, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Opelika City Schools
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