Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Language Teaching
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Goals

1. Discuss the concept of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
2. Explore ideas and strategies for its application in language teaching
Guiding Principles

In this session, we will strive to create a space where:

1. Everyone participates and gets a chance to offer their thoughts
2. Everyone listens to one another
3. Everyone is open to this process and engages with colleagues
Question

• What do you already know about Universal Design for Learning (UDL)?

• Choices:
  1. Write on your device/ paper
  2. Put it in chat
  3. Raise your hand
Definition

- UDL = framework to help us design courses that
  - lower barriers
  - maximize learning for all students
- Formal definition from CAST:
  UDL is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn
“MULTIPLE”

3 principles - provide **multiple** means of:

- Engagement
- Representation
- Action & Expression
Example

Captioned videos:
- A must for deaf people
- Useful for:
  - L2 English speakers
  - Commuting students
  - Students without a private study space
What UDL is

An approach that encourages us to design for the margins to:

• Include as many people as possible
• Lower barriers
• Reduce the need for accommodations
What UDL isn’t

• Not a set of fixed practices that we can all employ all the time
• Not a “design for the average student” practice. What works for one student will not work for the entire class
• Not just about accessible materials. **BUT** new Justice Dept. **rules** for ADA/Title II - all web content & mobile apps should follow **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA**
“UDL maintains rigor, while lowering barriers to accessing learning”

-- Thomas Tobin, UDL expert
Reflection

- What is one key aspect of UDL that stuck with you or was new to you?

- Choices:
  1. Write on your device/paper
  2. Put it in chat
  3. Raise your hand
Implications for language teaching

• What does “multiple” mean for language teaching?

• Multiple means of:
  1. Engagement
  2. Representation
  3. Action & Expression
Resources

- Teaching@UW UDL page
- Teaching@UW Accessible Teaching Strategies
- UW DO-IT
- UW Accessibility with lots of technical resources from Accessible Technology Services on making content accessible, including PDFs
- CAST:
  - Key Questions to Consider when Planning Lessons
  - UDL Guidelines
  - About the Guidelines
Thank you!