

**TEACHING HUMOR  
IN THE LANGUAGE  
CLASSROOM:**



Passionate about Languages and Cultures  
**Penn 25**  
Language Center  
presents

**SERIOUSLY?!**

SENIOR LECTURER, EDUCATIONAL LINGUISTICS DIVISION  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**ANNE POMERANTZ, PH.D.**

**ANNE POMERANTZ**

IS A SENIOR LECTURER IN THE EDUCATIONAL LINGUISTICS PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, WHERE SHE TEACHES CLASSES ON LANGUAGE & IDENTITY, SECOND LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY, AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION. PRIOR TO THIS SHE WAS A SPANISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR AND A COORDINATOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES AT PENN. HER WORK HAS APPEARED IN *APPLIED LINGUISTICS*, *CRITICAL INQUIRY IN LANGUAGE STUDIES*, *JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE & IDENTITY IN EDUCATION*, *JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE & INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION*, *MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL*, AND *MULTILINGUA*.

LANGUAGE EDUCATORS OFTEN REGARD HUMOR AS EITHER TOO DIFFICULT TO TEACH OR ANCILLARY TO THEIR CURRICULAR GOALS. LANGUAGE LEARNERS, HOWEVER, OFTEN REPORT A DESIRE TO INITIATE AND/OR PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN HUMOROUS EXCHANGES, PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM. IN THIS PRESENTATION, I MAKE A CASE FOR FOCUSING ON HUMOR IN INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS, NOTING HOW IT CAN BE USED AS A VEHICLE TO PROMOTE METALINGUISTIC AWARENESS AND A WAY TO INCREASE STUDENTS' INTERACTIONAL CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE. LIKEWISE, I OFFER PRINCIPLES FOR DESIGNING LESSONS ABOUT HUMOR, AS WELL AS SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL PLANS. THIS PRESENTATION IS INTENDED TO PIQUE LANGUAGE TEACHERS' INTEREST IN HUMOR AND PROVIDE THEM WITH A SOUND THEORETICAL BASIS FOR DEVELOPING THEIR OWN INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21  
3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM  
FISHER-BENNETT HALL  
ROOM 401**

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