# Sara Ahnell, EdD, NBCT

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| EDUCATION Ed.D. | Curriculum and Instruction  Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas  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 | May 2023 |
| M.Ed. | Foreign Language Education  Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama | May 2012 |
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| 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

# EXPERIENCE

French Program Chair and Teacher, Grades 10-12 January 2019-present

Auburn High School, Auburn, AL

* 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
* Achieved a 100% student pass rate on IB French exams since 2019

Instructor for Foreign Language Education Program August 2013-present

Auburn University, Auburn, AL

* 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 May 2020–May 2023

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

* 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 January 2013-January 2019

Opelika High School, Opelika, AL

* 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

French and English Language Arts Teacher, Grades 9-12 August 2012-January 2013

Sylacauga High School, Sylacauga, AL

* Designed and implemented research-based differentiated instruction and digital tools for

French I and English 10 courses

* Created and administered assessments to monitor and evaluate student progress and proficiency

Long-term Substitute, French I-II, Grades 9-12 January 2012-March 2012

Smiths Station High School, Smiths Station, AL

Student Teacher, French I-III, Grades 9-12 August 2011-December 2011

Central High School, Phenix City, AL

French Teacher (part-time), French I, Grade 8 August 2010-May 2011

Auburn Classical Academy, Auburn, AL

Substitute Teacher August 2010-May 2011

Auburn City Schools, Auburn, AL

# 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 POST-SECONDARY LEVEL

Courses Taught

Classroom Management for the Foreign Language Classroom (CTSE 4220/5220)-Auburn University

Practicum: Foreign Lang Ed (CTSE 4910)-Auburn University

Teaching Practicum (EDCI 800)-Kansas State University

MAT Masters Project (EDCI 890)-Kansas State University

Internship in K-12 Schools (EDCI 801)-Kansas State University

Curriculum and Course Development

Classroom Management for In-Service and Pre-Service Foreign Language Teachers

(CTSE 4220/5220) Course Design-Auburn University

Practicum: Foreign Language Ed (CTSE 4910) Course Design-Auburn University

       Courses as GTA at Kansas State University

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*. *19*(4), 28–31. <https://tinyurl.com/TLE2024>

**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. W.** (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.** 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.

**Ahnell, S.** High-Leverage Classroom Management Practices for World Language Teachers.

Workshop and Conference Presentations

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

\*!**Ahnell, S.** (2024). *High-Leverage Practices and Formative Assessment: Making Language*

*Comprehensible.* Session to be presented at annual conference of SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching), March 9th, in Atlanta, GA.

**^\*~Ahnell, S.** (2024). *High-Leverage Practices and Formative Assessment: Making Language*

*Comprehensible.* Workshop to be presented at annual conference of AWLA (Alabama World Language Association), February 16th, in Birmingham, AL.

\*~**Ahnell, S.** (2024). *High-Leverage Practices and Formative Assessment: Making Language*

*Comprehensible.* Session to be presented at annual conference of AL NBCT (Alabama National Board Certified Teachers) Network, January 20th, in Birmingham, 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 Conferenceon 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 Conferenceon 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 for 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 Closing Speaker, Birmingham, AL

2023 Lovett Private School World Language Department, Atlanta, GA

**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**

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 at 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)

American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

Alabama World Languages Association (AWLA)



**REFERENCES**

J. Spencer Clark, Ph.D.

Professor, Kansas State University

jspencerclark@k-state.edu, (785) 532-5525

Farrell Seymore, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Opelika City Schools

farrell.seymore@opelikaschools.org, (334) 744-9716

Leah McKeeman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Modern Language Education, Kansas State University

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Melinda Cro, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Students and Professor, Kansas State University

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