Trials and Triumphs of Delivering an Interdisciplinary Program: Spanish for the Agricultural Sciences

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Spanish for the Agricultural Sciences

• Interdisciplinary program

• Collaboration from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and the College of Agricultural Sciences
Purpose

- Provide students the opportunity to develop Spanish language skills within their relevant disciplinary context
Nuts and Bolts

• Four course series

• Capstone: one month immersion in Costa Rica

• Co-taught by Spanish instructor and College of Agricultural Sciences faculty
Triumphs of Interdisciplinary Collaborations

- Students benefit from simultaneous access to experts in both fields
- Connecting student interests to what students do in the language classroom

Cerdo
Trials of Interdisciplinary Collaborations

- Extra time and energy
- Obligates both parties to accept the culture of another discipline
Instructor Growth

• Instructors must cope with the fact that they are not an expert in both subjects taught in the course

• Develop relationship of trust
Summary

Trials

– Extra time, effort
– Not an expert
– Culture of another discipline
– Develop relationship of trust

Triumphs

– Students benefit from:
  • Experts in both fields
  • Connect to student interests
Unique Learning Opportunities

• Allows students to fully understand the interconnectedness of language and culture

Win-Win!