

FLEAT 2005 - Improving Oral/Aural Skills From a Distance

NC State University

[Home >](#)

- 1. Overview
- 2. Standards
- 3. Course
- 4. Tools
- 5. Assessment
- 6. Results
- 7. Conclusion
 - Audacity
 - MovieMaker
 - Skype
 - Wimba
 - Other

Improving Oral/Aural Skills from a Distance

Session #39 - B142

Scott Despain

Abstract

Distance Education courses, while certainly meeting the time and scheduling needs of the intended audience, may often allow students to easily avoid developing their listening comprehension and speaking proficiency. What strategies can we incorporate into our distance course to encourage listening and speaking skill development? This presentation will demonstrate “best practices” for course management and curriculum design changes, and assessment strategies to encourage students to listen to and produce in the L2, and will treat both the technical and the practical.

Presenter Bio

Scott Despain is Associate Professor of Spanish at NC State University, and Executive Director of the Foreign Languages Technology Center. He has taught streaming video-based Spanish courses since 1999. His scholarly activities include courseware development, distance education, and technology assisted language learning research.

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NC State University

[Home](#) > [Overview](#)

- 1. Overview**
- 2. Standards**
- 3. Course**
- 4. Tools**
- 5. Assessment**
- 6. Results**
- 7. Conclusion**
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 - MovieMaker
 - Skype
 - Wimba
 - Other

Presentation Overview

- I. Overview of the presentation**
- II. National Standards**
- III. Review of the Beginning Spanish Distance Course**
- IV. My Tools to Support Oral and Aural Skill Development**
- V. Assessment of My Students' Oral and Aural Skills**
- VI. Results**

FLEAT 2005 - Improving Oral/Aural Skills From a Distance

NC State University

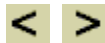
[Home](#) > [Standards](#)

- 1. Overview
- 2. Standards
- 3. Course
- 4. Tools
- 5. Assessment
- 6. Results
- 7. Conclusion
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 - MovieMaker
 - Skype
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National Standards - Introduction

"The businessperson, the poet, the emergency room nurse, the diplomat, the scientist, and the teenage computer buff are representative Americans who play diverse roles in life, yet each could present a convincing rational for the importance of studying a foreign language. Their reasons might range from the realistic to the idealistic, but one simple truth would give substance to them all: to relate in a meaningful way to another human being, one must be able to *communicate*."

"National Standards for Foreign Language Learning," pg. 11



FLEAT 2005 - Improving Oral/Aural Skills From a Distance

NC State University

[Home](#) > [Course](#)

- 1. Overview
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- 3. Course
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The Course - FLS101, Beginning Spanish

The course is offered through DELTA ([CLICK HERE](#) to see their site)

The course is off-load and team-managed

The course contains the following components designed to develop students' oral/aural skills

- Streaming Video
- Course Mates
- Quia On-line Activities
- Paired Activities
- Aural Testing
- Oral Testing
- Oral/Aural Testing (simultaneous)
- Oral Recording

To see the course [CLICK HERE](#)

FLEAT 2005 - Improving Oral/Aural Skills From a Distance

NC State University

Home > Tools

- 1. Overview
- 2. Standards
- 3. Course
- 4. Tools
- 5. Assessment
- 6. Results
- 7. Conclusion
- Audacity
- MovieMaker
- Skype
- Wimba
- Other

Tools for Aural/Oral Skills Development

- Comprehensible Input
 - Streaming Class Sessions (**CLICK HERE** to see a sample class session)
 - Windows Movie Maker
- Oral Recording Sample
 - Audacity
 - Wimba (**CLICK HERE** for more information)
 - Sanako
 - Other
- Comprehensible/Incomprehensible Input (Paired Activities)
 - Skype (**CLICK HERE** for more information)
 - Windows Messenger
 - Phone
 - AIM
 - Wimba
- Oral testing
 - Quia (**CLICK HERE** for more information)
 - Pencil/Paper
 - Audacity
 - Other
 - Wimba (Oral Assessment)
- Oral/Aural (Simultaneously)
 - Mouth
 - Ears
 - Hands
 - Face :)

FLEAT 2005 - Improving Oral/Aural Skills From a Distance

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Home > Assessment

- 1. Overview
- 2. Standards
- 3. Course
- 4. Tools
- 5. Assessment
- 6. Results
- 7. Conclusion
 - Audacity
 - MovieMaker
 - Skype
 - Wimba
 - Other

Assessment Tools

- Listening Comprehension Skills (**CLICK HERE** to see a sample test)
 - Out of place activities
 - Conversation Comprehension
 - Oral questions/written answers
 - true/false, logical/illogical, etc.
- Reading Pronunciation Skills
 - Wimba (or Audacity)
 - Out-of-class
 - Paragraph and sentence reading
 - **CLICK HERE** to see a sample activity
- SMOPI (Super-Modified Oral Proficiency Interview)
 - In-class
 - During each written text
 - **CLICK HERE** to see a sample questions

FLEAT 2005 - Improving Oral/Aural Skills From a Distance

NC State University

[Home](#) > [Results](#)

- 1. Overview
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- 3. Course
- 4. Tools
- 5. Assessment
- 6. Results
- 7. Conclusion
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 - MovieMaker
 - Skype
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Results

- Anxiety Level increases :)

- [CLICK HERE](#) Listen to a sample recording of a Distance Student

- [CLICK HERE](#) Listen to a sample recording of a Traditional Student

- Survey Results Not Available

FLEAT 2005 - Improving Oral/Aural Skills From a Distance

NC State University

[Home](#) > [Conclusion](#)

- 1. Overview
- 2. Standards
- 3. Course
- 4. Tools
- 5. Assessment
- 6. Results
- 7. Conclusion
 - Audacity
 - MovieMaker
 - Skype
 - Wimba
 - Other

Conclusion

- I. National Standards
- II. Review of the Beginning Spanish Distance Course
- III. My Tools to Support Oral and Aural Skill Development
- IV. Assessment of My Students' Oral and Aural Skills
- V. Results
- VI. Tool Links
- VI. Questions, Comments, Suggestions