

Sarah Elizabeth Butler

Assistant Professor of Spanish, Midwestern State University
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Education

M.A., Spanish, concentration in translation, Kent State University, May 1999.

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Spanish major, English minor, Midwestern State University, President's Medal of Excellence, Division of Humanities, December 1991.

Certifications

Texas Secondary Teacher Certificate, Spanish and English, December 1994.

Texas Classroom Teacher Certificate, Elementary Self-Contained, English as a Second Language, Bilingual/ESL-Spanish, Secondary Language Arts, June 2002.

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor of Spanish, Midwestern State University, fall 2025 – present (Instructor of Spanish from fall 2011 – summer 2025)

Teach three courses of Elementary Spanish I or II each long semester. Teach part-time or full-time during summer II as needed. Mentor, advise, and tutor students during office hours and by appointment. Serve as faculty advisor and chapter representative of Sigma Delta Pi, National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. Serve as first-year Spanish textbook liaison and IT Liaison for our World Languages & Cultures Language Laboratory. Train colleagues and provide support for use of online materials. Currently serving on Admissions Committee.

Served on Undergraduate Recruitment Committee, under the leadership of Deans Stambaugh and Curry, a sub-committee of the Provost's Enrollment and Retention Task Force, Academic year, 2021-2022. Chaired Prothro-Yeager Faculty Teaching and Scholarship Awards Committee, 2024-2025. Served on search committees for department chair, and German and Spanish faculty positions from 2012-2020. Served as Spanish Club Faculty Advisor from 2012-2017. Taught a Learning Community course with MWSU 1233 College Connections, fall 2016. Served on Awards Banquet Selection Committee, spring 2014 and 2015. Primarily responsible for developing documentation for submission of our elementary level courses to the MSU Core Curriculum Committee for course alignment with the THECB Core Curriculum Objectives, academic year 2011-2012. Subsequently revised those submissions in spring 2015. Researched and completed resubmission of intermediate language courses to the MSU Core Curriculum Committee for resubmission to the THECB, fall 2018. Researched development of a modern foreign language lab for MSU. Developed listening comprehension quiz materials with Dr.

Claudia Montoya for our current elementary level textbook and developed video and/or listening comprehension materials for our previous textbooks.

Freelance Spanish into English Translator, May 1999 – August 2011.

Translated commercial and legal documents including contracts, bid documents, technical specifications, and financial statements. Also, translated personal documents such as birth and marriage certificates, diplomas, transcripts, and other immigration-related documentation.

Adjunct Instructor of Spanish, Midwestern State University, fall 2001 – spring 2011.

Taught two courses of Elementary Spanish I or II each long semester. Taught Elementary Spanish I or II or Intermediate Spanish I or II as needed during summer sessions. Contributed to development and review of testing materials for elementary courses.

Adjunct Instructor in ESL, Intensive English Language Institute, Midwestern State University, fall 2005 – summer 2009.

Taught Listening and Speaking and Vocabulary courses, levels 3 through 5, per contract.

Co-Sponsor for MSU's Spanish in Mexico Study Abroad Program – summer 2008.

Supervised, mentored, and tutored students during final three weeks of 6-week Spanish immersion program at Universidad de las Américas-Puebla. Facilitated communication between students and UDLA faculty and personnel. Accompanied students on program excursions and service projects.

Coordinator, Community Interpreting and Translating Assistance program, Interfaith Ministries, Inc., Wichita Falls, Texas, March 2000 – March 2001. (year-long, grant-funded position). Recruited, organized, and maintained a database of volunteer community interpreters and translators. Identified target organizations, agencies and individuals for interpreting and translating services and matched volunteers with these entities. Developed, produced and distributed promotional materials for program.

Terminology Intern, Family Health International, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, May 1998 – July 1998.

Reviewed and edited *FamPlan*, a 3,000-term reproductive health information glossary in English, Spanish and French. Produced *FamPlan* Version 3.0 in document and database format. Researched terms and consulted with Family Health International researchers, health care professionals, and linguists.

Graduate Teaching Assistant in Spanish, Kent State University, 1997 – 1999.

Taught one section of elementary-level Spanish while pursuing graduate study. Tutored students during office hours. Developed teaching and quiz materials and collaborated with fellow TA's and supervising faculty. Taught Dr. Fanny Arango-Keeth's undergraduate translation course when she was absent for a conference.

Spanish Teacher, Seymour Independent School District, 1995 – 1997.

Taught first-year Spanish classes at secondary level. Implemented and taught new elementary level (first grade) Spanish program. Served as class sponsor, yearbook advisor and Spanish Club co-advisor.

Research and Scholarly Activity

Facilitator and participant for MSU Texas' TLRC (Teaching and Learning Research Center) program *For the Love of Learning: Assignment Redesign for Gen AI*, Feb. 26, 2026.

Panel Presentation: *Integrating Career and Cultural Themes in Mini Spanish LSP Lessons* as part of a panel presentation *Pedagogical Innovation and Digital Tools: Effective Strategies for L2 Teaching and Learning* with Drs. Philip Allen, Lee Gagum, and Hiromi Kaneda, University of Kentucky, KFLC (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Conference) April 17-18, 2026.

Panel Presentation: *Music Videos for Teaching Language, Culture, and History* as part of panel presentation *Outfitting Your Tech Toolbox* with Drs. Lee Gagum and Philip Allen. Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT), Chandler, Arizona, January 23-25, 2025.

Presentation: *Quechua, Kaqchikel, and Galician, Too: Indigenous and Minority Languages and Cultures in Pop Music of the "Spanish-Speaking" World*, Red Talk for the MSU Texas Redwine Honors Program, November 19, 2024.

Presentation: *Langston Hughes: Search for Harmony in a Dissonant World*, at the American Studies Association of Texas (ASAT) Annual Conference at MSU Texas, November 15-16, 2024.

Discussion facilitator: Recruitment (and Engagement) that Reflects our Populations, Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Summer Institute on Liberal Learning, Summer Institute 2024: World Languages, University of North Carolina, Asheville, June 20-23, 2024.

Presentation: *Morriña, Muxu'x, and Allyu: How Three Musicians Use Minority Languages for Major Impact*, MSU Texas' Faculty Forum, April 30, 2024.

Presentation: *Pop Song Pedagogy: Grammar, History, and Culture in Music Videos* as part of the Developing Competences: Culture, Language and Pedagogy panel at the University of Kentucky, KFLC (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Conference), April 20, 2024.

Panel Chair: Literary Representations: Travel Writing and Community at the University of Kentucky, KFLC, April 21, 2023.

Presentation: *Ancient Languages Find a Modern Voice* as a part of the Expression of Culture through Language panel at the University of Kentucky, KFLC, April 21, 2023.

Presentation: *Young Musicians Bring Modern Voices to Ancient Languages* as part of the Pursuing Knowledge at the Intersection of Language and Culture event at the Wichita Falls Museum of Art, April 13, 2023.

Presentation: “Renata Flores: Bringing an Ancient Language to a New Generation” as part of *Bold, Beautiful and Breaking Barriers: Kahlo, Flores, and Otto*. Panel presentation with Drs. Lee Gagum and Claudia Montoya, moderated by Dr. Philip Allen, for MSU Texas’ MOSAIC’s Women’s History Month, March 2022.

Presentation: “Langston Hughes: Translated and Translating, Searching for a Common Voice” as part of *Visionary Contributions of Black Americans through the World Languages’ Lens*. Co-Presenter with Drs. Lee Gagum and Eric Lynch for MSU Texas’ MOSAIC’s Black History Month, February 2021 and 2022.

Presentation: *Spanish Language Arts Standards*. Co-presenter with Vicky López, Region IX Educational Specialist. Presented training for Wichita Falls Independent School District’s ESL/Bilingual educators on behalf of Region IX Education Service Center, August 2009.

Published Translation: Embarek, Malika. *El retorno de las palabras exiliadas*. Trans. Sarah Butler. London: *In Other Words, The Journal for Literary Translators*, spring 2001.

Project: Translation of portions of *La fortaleza asediada* by Fernando Wulff Alonso for Dr. Jennifer Larson, Professor of Classics, Kent State University, spring 1999.

Professional Development

Empowering Students: Reimagining Career Readiness in Language Education. VISTA Higher Learning Webinar, Presenter: Gregory Thompson, Brigham Young University, originally aired on Dec. 5, 2025, viewed on Jan. 14, 2026.

Taking the Language You Teach Beyond the Department. VISTA Higher Learning Webinar, Presenter: Enza Antenos, Montclair State Univ., originally aired on Oct. 23, 2025, viewed on Jan. 13, 2026.

Don’t Reinvent the Wheel: Integrating Career Readiness into Already Existing 1st and 2nd Year Language Programs. Presented by Darcy Lear, University of Chicago, CERCLL at University of Arizona Webinar, originally aired Oct. 5, 2023, viewed Dec. 30, 2025.

Integrating a Custom Chatbot into Business Education, MSU Texas’ TLRC (Teaching and Learning Research Center) presentation and discussion, November 13, 2025.

From Fear to Framework: Facilitating Productive Conversations with Students about Generative AI, MSU Texas' TLRC (Teaching and Learning Research Center) presentation and discussion, September 25, 2025.

My Conversation Trainer Live-Demo For Introductory Spanish, Vistas Higher Learning Webinar, originally aired on March 14, 2025, viewed August 2025.

What Our Students Want Us to Know, MSU Texas' TLRC student panel and discussion, April 24, 2025.

Workshop on Faculty's Role in Supporting Students with Disabilities, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, March 27, 2025.

Pedagogy and Cultural Workshop at the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha in Toledo, Spain, as a recipient of a Don Quijote Scholarship from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), March 8-15, 2025.

Enriching Active and Veteran Military Student Experience, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, Feb 27, 2025.

Workshop on Cultivating Participatory Culture, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, Oct. 10, 2024.

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) LSP SIG Webinar:
Reimagining Language Curricula: Strategies for Addressing a New Era with LSP Proposals, Oct. 10, 2024

ACTFL Languages for Specific Purposes Special Interest Group (LSP SIG) Webinar
presentation by Barbara Lafford titled *Spanish for Specific Purposes*, Sept. 13, 2024.

Workshop on Writing Across the Curriculum, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, September 12, 2024.

AI-Powered Teaching & Learning, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's ((THECB) Division of Digital Learning Webinar, September 11, 2024.

AI Meets OER: Unleash Creativity & Navigate Licensing, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's ((THECB) Division of Digital Learning Webinar, August 21, 2024.

Enhancing Language Learning with Real-World Content, presented by Chris Sparks Early of Northern Virginia Community College, Stephanie Langston of Georgia State University, and Devon Hanahan of the College of Charleston, Vista Higher Learning Webinar, April 4, 2024.

Exploring Alternatives to Traditional Textbooks, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, March 21, 2024.

Workshop on Creating Writing Intensive Courses, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, February 22, 2024.

D2L Training on Video Assignments, with Danielle McAfee, MSU Texas' Distance Education, February 12, 2024.

Moffett Library Training to use the Mustangs Podcast Studio, January 22, 2024.

Building Classroom Community and Belonging, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, November 16, 2023.

Exploring the Potential for AI in the Classroom, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, October 19, 2023.

Embedding Undergraduate Research into your Courses, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, September 21, 2023.

Attended Mosaic Town Hall to learn about and contribute to the rebranding of their program considering SB 17, September 11, 2023.

Best Practices for Project-Based Assessments, by Stephanie Langston, Georgia State University, Vista Higher Learning Webinar, May 25, 2023.

MSU Texas' Quality Enhancement Plan, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, February 16, 2023.

Real Talk: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in the World Language Classroom. Cengage Webinar Oct. 19, 2022.

Student Motivation and Engagement, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation, Sept. 2022.

San Pedro Spanish School, San Pedro Lake Atitlan, Sololá, Guatemala. Completed a week of intensive Spanish study (4 hours daily) to develop my own linguistic and cultural knowledge and to cultivate professional relationships with educators in Guatemala. March 13-19, 2022.

Using Student Strategies to Facilitate Second Language Learning, Vista Higher Learning Webinar, November 15, 2021.

Incorporating Service Learning into Existing Courses, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, November 18, 2021.

D2L Training- Advanced Video Editing for Captioning, MSU Texas' Distance Education's Training, February 14, 2022.

Moffett Library Revisited, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, February 17, 2022.

Active Shooter Awareness Training, MSU Texas Police, October 14, 2019.

7 Steps to Creating Accessible Word Documents, MSU Center for Continuing, Professional and Distance Education Workshop, March 30, 2018.

Teaching the Student, Not the Material: Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, MSU Office of Equity, Inclusion and Multicultural Affairs' Critical Conversation Series, Presented by Lasana Hotep, January 22, 2018.

Join the Rubrics Revolution: Save Time While Providing Efficient, More Effective Feedback, Desire to Learn (D2L) Webinar, presented by Laura Osborne and Andra Floyd of Stephen F. Austin University, October 17, 2017.

Research for Learning Community course Elementary Spanish I, linked with Dr. Ruth Morrow's *World Music Introduction to Western and World Music*. Conducted extensive research on the history of music in Spain to prepare for this course. summer 2017.

Demystifying Intercultural Communicative Competence in Instructed Language Learning, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) Cultural SIG (Special Interest Group) Webinar, Presented by Dr. Jacque Van Houten, Original broadcast on June 20, 2016.

Building a Heritage Language Program: Guidelines for a Collaborative Approach, ACTFL Spanish Heritage Learners SIG Webinar, Presented by Dr. Sara Beaudrie, Arizona State University; Original broadcast on May 19, 2016.

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) 2014 Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Attended and participated in twelve workshops (12 CEUs), November 21-23, 2015.

Exploraciones, A four-semester approach to meet today's students' needs, Cengage Webinar: Original broadcast Oct. 22, 2015.

Exploring Intercultural Communicative Competence: Concepts, Components & Assessment, ACTFL Cultural SIG Webinar, presented by Dr. Alvino Fantini of SIT Graduate Institute, September 11, 2014.

Engagement and Learning: The Culturally Responsive Classroom, MSU Texas' TLRC presentation and discussion, March 27, 2014.

Attended Texas Foreign Language Education Conference (TexFLEC) at UT Austin. Earned 8 hours CPEs. February 14-15, 2014.

Completed 3.5 hours training through the Office of Continuing Education on D2L (Desire to Learn), fall 2012.

Integrating 21st Century Skills in Language Instruction, ACTFL Webinar, May 16, 2012.

Challenging Students, Fostering Learning Communities, Learning from the Master Teachers, MSU Texas' TLRC Workshops, academic year 2010-2011.

Assessing Communication: How Do You Know When Your Students are Making Progress?: Activating Communication: Five Ways to Enhance Communication Using Technology; Making Communication Meaningful: Creating Interpersonal Communicative Tasks, ACTFL Webinar Series, September – October 2010.

Student Success from K to College and Career: Professional Development on the English & Spanish Language Arts & Reading TEKS, ELPS, CCRS. Vaughn Gross Center for Reading & Language Arts Training, UT Austin, March 2009.

TexTesol State Conference, Richardson, Texas, November 2008.

Obtaining Grant Funding: Increasing Your Odds of Success, Midwestern State University Grant Writing Workshop for Faculty and Administrators, October 2007.

Seminar for Spanish Teachers, Universidad de las Américas-Puebla, Cholula, México, summer 2005.

Award and Honors

Prothro-Yeager College Faculty Teaching Award, fall 2020.

Honorary Member of the Delta Beta Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, National Hispanic Honor Society, Inducted April 1, 2014.

Fellowship Recipient, Orienting New Teaching Assistants Program (ONTAP), Kent State University, 1998.

Professional Memberships

Southwest Conference on Language Teaching, January 2025 to present

Texas Association of College Teachers, 2011 to present.

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2010 to present.

American Translators Association and ATA's Spanish Language Division, 1997-2004.

Northeast Ohio Translators Association, 1997-1999.