A Holistic Class through A.L.L. - Alternative Language Learning -
Experience a class directed to the whole of the learner: his HEART, BRAIN & BODY.

Different accelerative learning techniques become useful tools to achieve this successful and harmonious learning experience. A sample class in Swedish, will be delivered so that participants have a chance to directly experience the learning process. Teachers will also perform activities which they will be able to put into practice in their classrooms immediately afterwards.

Summary:
This is a presentation consisting of two well-differentiated parts. Firstly, a short talk on Alternative Language Learning, a methodology that the lecturer has developed and has been trying successfully for the last six years and, secondly, a demonstration class to show in practice, how such an approach can be transferred to every day class procedure.

During the initial talk, the lecturer will explain the meaning of “holistic” applied to language learning: Holistic means “whole”. In the context of Foreign Language Learning it means the whole of the language and the whole of the learner.

With reference to the whole of the learner the learning process from the moment the he is exposed to new input will be discussed. In the context of a holistic class this is achieved by stimulating the learner's perception channels and by conscious as well as pre-conscious exposure to the target language. Once the input has been accessed by the senses it is then, processed by the brain. The discussion will be directed to the different ways both the right and the left hemispheres of the brain work in the process of storage and retrieval of information. The influence of the physical and the emotional experience in learning will also be discussed and information obtained from scientific
research will be introduced in the talk to emphasise their role in short and long term memory storage. Tools to facilitate whole-brain learning, such as mind-maps and metaphors will be used in this presentation so that participants can experience the approach while it is being presented.

This introduction on Alternative Language Learning will raise an awareness of how the “whole” of the language can be introduced to learners from the first stages in their learning process by exploiting the high potential of whole-brain methodologies. Participants will experience body movement guided by Educational Kinesiology, NLP based activities and Circle Dance. We will explore how these tools engage learners emotionally and energetically to assist the accelerative learning experience that actually occurs with this alternative approach.

During the second part of the workshop the participants will have the opportunity to experience a class in Swedish. The class will begin with three suggestopedic presentations of the language. First, a role-play to introduce the main character of the text and secondly two concert readings: an active and a passive concert reading. During these suggestopedic presentations the left hemispheres of their brains of the participants will be busily engaged trying to decode the large amounts of information entering their systems in Swedish. Meanwhile their “right brains” will be incorporating the target language at high speed and at a conscious as well as at a pre-conscious level. After the presentations, there will be an activation of the input through a series of multi-sensory activities which will address to the whole of the learner: his mind, his body and his soul thus facilitating the learning of a completely unknown language in an anxiety free entertaining class.

Bibliography


**María Marta Suárez** has developed a holistic methodology, A.L.L. Alternative Language Learning, on which she has based her EFL courses and trainings in Argentina and at the Findhorn Foundation College in Scotland. IACA Co-founder. Former lecturer of Methods I at ISP Joaquín V. Gonzalez. Trainer, school manager and textbook writer.