



Instructional Philosophy

Georgia Tech Language Institute's (GTLI) Programs are based on three important principles of language teaching and learning. These principles help our learners develop the soft skills they need for the 21st century.

1. COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING

The GTLI's faculty use the communicative approach in their classes. This means that teachers use materials that are authentic and generate real communication so that learners can have meaningful practice that will help them accomplish their real-life language learning goals. Teachers also frequently use activities in which learners collaboratively interact with each other so that learners are active and engaged in the learning process.

2. CRITICAL THINKING

The GTLI's class activities, assignments, and exams often include critical thinking activities. The GTLI defines "critical thinking" as using information learned in one lesson or class to complete a "new" activity in a different lesson or class. The GTLI does not want learners to simply memorize words or rules - we want our learners to develop critical thinking skills that they can apply outside the classroom in their academic, professional, and personal lives. Our classes regularly include activities that require learners to use newly learned language and information to analyze, evaluate, and create.

3. LEARNER-CENTER TEACHING

The GTLI's classes are learner-centered. Learning in our classes happens in all directions, from teacher to learner(s), learner(s) to learner(s), and learner(s) to teacher. Each learner contributes unique knowledge, experiences, and perspectives to the class. The pace and focus of lessons are based on the needs of the learners in the class. As such, it is important that learners understand their personal learning goals and share these goals with their teachers so that teachers and learners can work together to identify the steps, resources and support learners need to achieve their goals. We want our learners to become confident, self-directed language learners who see language learning as a rewarding, life-long process.