



Australian
National
University

Upcoming Seminar

ANU Language Teaching Forum

Monday 24 July 2017, 4.15 – 5.15 pm
Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU

Speaker: Gabrielle Quadraccia, CCE, ANU

“VARIATIONS ON CULTURAL THEMES”

Using culinary culture to create resources for the adult learner.



Food is universal; it sustains our bodies, pleases the palate, engenders companionship and defines our cultures. People like to know about food, to taste food, to discuss food. Food is a rich source of not just calories but topics of conversation which go well beyond ordering from a menu.

In this presentation, I will illustrate how I develop a set of lessons, with contents and activities suitable for A2 - B1 adult learners, by choosing one iconic ingredient in Italian cooking as the stimulus. From a single concept, students are exposed to cultural information delivered in an appropriate register of language. Vocabulary and grammatical structures are explained and targeted exercises are provided for reinforcement and practice.

Oral proficiency is developed through natural or guided conversation: questioning, relating own experiences and ideas, and engaging in “sensory” experiences which promote comment and discussion.

While my objectives must be to teach the elements of language, my aim remains to promote curiosity for and interest in Italy and its culture, as I believe it to be the key to sustaining long-term interest in the language. In my teaching I am inspired by the brilliant and controversial A.C. Grayling, author, philosopher and academic who affirms that “Education should inspire not just teach and that teachers should always be learning alongside their pupils”.

This forum is jointly coordinated by the College of Arts & Social Sciences (the School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies) and the College of Asia & the Pacific (the School of Culture, History & Language).

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