**Statement of Teaching Philosophy**

My teaching philosophy has evolved over many years, from first teaching English as a foreign language in China, to later teaching Chinese as a foreign language and training future foreign language teachers at MTSU, while being a foreign language learner myself at the same time. As I reflect on my beliefs and approach to teaching, I find that there are three basic principles that a successful teacher would follow: 1) keep students interested and motivated; 2) help students achieve positive learning outcomes; and 3) develop students’ critical thinking skills and best practices to become life-long learners.

I believe that successful learning starts with having a curiosity about the subject matter and a clear objective in mind. A successful teacher helps foster students’ passion for learning. To accomplish this, I have taken different approaches to teaching, depending on the nature of the class. In a foreign language classroom, for example, I introduce students to cultural artifacts and practices in the target culture to foster students’ awareness of being part of a multicultural world. In a foreign language teacher training class, in contrast, I relate subject matters to the required skills and job prospective of future foreign language teachers. No matter which type of classes I teach, my objective is to help students establish clear goals and to develop their passion in the subject matter.

To achieve successful learning is to engage in meaningful activities that result in positive learning outcomes. A successful teacher’s role is to adopt effective classroom practices that help achieve such positive outcomes. In my classroom instruction, I do so in a few ways: I define clear course objectives at the beginning of the course as well as at the beginning of each class period; I present content in a structured manner through handouts, provide additional learning and reference material through the Internet and other sources, and use multimedia and other instructional technologies to help students interact with learning materials. In addition, I encourage student interaction in the classroom through small group activities, and encourage interaction outside the classroom through engaging in discussions on professional and other social media platforms. Furthermore, students are required to follow clearly defined course evaluation standards and schedules for completing learning and assessment tasks, in order to encourage them to become responsible for their own learning.

I believe that developing critical thinking skills and best practices guarantees life-long successful learning. A successful teacher’s job is to help students develop those skills and practices to continue learning outside the classroom. Some of the strategies I have adopted in my teaching include, for example, having students seek additional information about the content outside of the presented course materials. In addition, I evaluate student performance not only on the accuracy of knowledge learned but also on the strategies applied to complete assignments. To promote an exploratory spirit, I encourage students to interact with native speakers and peers through social media.

Following these basic principles, I have worked to improve my instructional skills over the years. More importantly, I have witnessed many of my students acquire language or professional skills in a manner that keeps them motivated to continue learning outside the classroom and even after they leave campus.