


# Intercom For Methods Courses



“I was surprised how often during the semester, right up until the last week, students were sharing game ideas, music and websites that they had discovered through InterCom.”



Methods instructors have a daunting task: they must help pre-service and in-service teachers absorb academic research on best practices in language education and then apply that research in real-life teaching situations. In the process, they prepare new teachers to enter and participate in the professional community of language educators.

**The Center for Applied Second Language Studies (CASLS)** at the University of Oregon encourages methods instructors to make a free InterCom subscription part of their students' learning experience. Each weekly InterCom issue includes:

- a topical language education article
- a classroom-ready activity exemplifying the weekly topic
- curated resources from a broad selection of listservs, blog posts, and other media


Subscriptions to InterCom are customized, so students receive information relevant to their work and interests, and **subscribing is free.**


[caslsintercom.uoregon.edu](http://caslsintercom.uoregon.edu)

## **Here are some ways to use InterCom in your methods course**

• Expose your students to a broad variety of viewpoints and resources. Have them sign up for InterCom and several higher-volume listservs, such as FLTEACH. Here is a helpful list of potential resources:


<http://caslsintercom.uoregon.edu/content/12173>. At the end of the term, discuss which services students found most useful and plan to continue to use as part of their professional development



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- As the term progresses, work with students to develop a classroom rubric for the principles of good practice presented in your course. Schedule weekly or biweekly class time to critique an Activity of the Week based on the rubric.
  - Host a student-led idea share. Ask students to share two activities or resources that they have found outside of class. InterCom's Activity of the Week and curated resources are a great place to start.
  - Use an Activity of the Week to practice modifying curriculum. How could a given activity based on authentic resources, for example, be adapted for a different language, proficiency level, or age level?
  - Use Topic of the Week articles to spark student inquiry and introduce a planned topic in advance. Students can read the short article and discuss it before you move to a more detailed exploration. You can find past articles on our search page here: <http://caslsintercom.uoregon.edu/content/searchContent>.

Subscribing to InterCom beyond their methods course helps prevent the isolation that often afflicts new educators. InterCom keeps them connected to trends in language pedagogy and aware of professional development opportunities.

If you are a methods course instructor with more suggestions for InterCom use or feedback on our format or content, please contact us at [langsub@uoregon.edu](mailto:langsub@uoregon.edu). Our InterCom editor can also visit your class remotely for a brief presentation on the benefits of InterCom and other online resources.



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“One teacher from a very small school in rural Montana, far from other world language teachers, announced at a teachers' meeting that InterCom was the best resource she had ever discovered and encouraged anyone who wasn't already part of it to join as soon as they could.”

The U.S. Department of Education Title VI, under grant #P229A140004, supports development of InterCom. Contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education nor imply endorsement by the federal government.