

Robert Michael Spoden

Teach • Build • Improve

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Portfolio

Professional Summary

Language instructor with nearly a decade of experience teaching university students, adult learners, and professionals in Türkiye. Experienced in academic English instruction, Moodle-supported instruction, educational technology, AI-assisted assessment, and workflow improvement. Combines classroom teaching experience with practical systems development, including Moodle course design, digital learning resources, assessment workflows, and administrative process improvement.

Core Strengths

- Academic English Instruction
- University Preparatory Programs
- Moodle Course Design
- Educational Technology
- AI-Assisted Assessment
- Speaking & Writing Assessment
- Workflow Improvement
- Digital Learning Resources
- Learner Support Systems
- Faculty Training & Support

Selected Educational Technology Contributions

Speaking Center Workflow Redesign

- Redesigned the Speaking Center recordkeeping workflow and trained staff in its administration and use; the solution was adopted by the Teaching and Learning Development department and remains in active use.

Moodle LMS Deployment

- Independently deployed and administered Moodle learning environments at Istanbul University to support several A2-B2 general English courses, including assignments, quizzes, attendance, forums, embedded resources, and reusable course materials.

AI-Assisted Assessment

- Developed workflows combining transcription, OCR, rubric-based evaluation, and AI-assisted feedback generation for speaking and writing assessment.

Teaching Experience

Özyeğin University

EAP Instructor | Istanbul, Türkiye | 2022 – 2026

- Taught academic English to university preparatory students at B1 and B2 levels.
- Developed Moodle-based learning materials, quizzes, assignments, grammar review resources, and assessment support materials.
- Created a Moodle grammar review resource adopted by multiple instructors.
- Redesigned the Speaking Center recordkeeping workflow and trained staff in its administration and use; the solution remains in active use.
- Designed AI-assisted speaking and writing assessment workflows using transcription, OCR, and rubric-based feedback generation.
- Created browser-based learning activities and AI-generated question banks to support student engagement.
- Implemented digital-first teaching practices using mobile-accessible resources and Moodle-supported materials.

Istanbul University Dil Merkezi

EFL Instructor | Istanbul, Türkiye | 2018 – 2022

- Taught English courses to adult learners from A2-B2 levels.
- Conducted placement interviews and speaking assessments.
- Transitioned courses to online delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developed portfolio-based assessment systems to support online learning.
- Independently deployed and administered a self-hosted Moodle LMS for several A2-B2 general English courses serving approximately 50-60 students.
- Developed reusable instructional materials, Moodle activities, quizzes, and portfolio-based assessment workflows aligned with learner needs and course objectives.

British Side

EFL Instructor | Istanbul, Türkiye | 2016 – 2018

- Delivered general and business English instruction to adult learners and corporate clients.
- Provided one-to-one and small-group instruction tailored to professional communication needs.
- Developed instructional materials supporting communicative language learning.

Education

University of California, Santa Cruz (2016)

B.A. Political Science • *Cum Laude* • Highest Honors in Major

Cambridge CELTA (2016)

Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults

Allan Hancock College

A.A. Business Administration • High Honors

A.A. Liberal Arts: Mathematics and Science • High Honors

Research and International Experience

University of Ghana

Conducted field research on education and political economy in Ghana. Research formed the basis of the honors thesis: *Basic Education in Ghana: A Two-Tiered System*

Boğaziçi University

Visiting student in Political Science

Earlier Professional Experience

Staples Copy and Print Center

Copy and Print Center Supervisor | Santa Maria, California | 2008 – 2013

- Managed daily operations of a high-volume copy and print center.
- Trained staff and management trainees.
- Consulted with local businesses on printing, marketing, and document production projects.
- Oversaw workflow, production scheduling, quality control, and customer service.