Globalization, immigration, media, virtual landscapes, mobility and migration have transformed the contexts in which we teach language today, as well as the students we teach. Increasingly multilingual and multicultural, our students enter the language classroom with untapped linguistic and cultural resources. This presentation will report on how Intercomprehension, a method for teaching languages of the same family through the linguistic bridges that unite them, has proven to be a dynamic tool for rethinking language teaching for these students and for reshaping the content we teach them. Since 2007, we have been offering courses at California State University, Long Beach taught from an intercomprehensive perspective. Known as “French and Italian for Spanish Speakers,” these courses have shortened acquisition times while bringing our students closer to languages and to their own capacity for learning them, resulting in a perception of world languages that is less and less foreign and more and more familiar.

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