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## Puntos de partida: An Invitation to Spanish

*Thalia Dorwick, Ana Mara Prez-Girons, Anne Becher, Casilde A. Isabelli Associate Professor, A. Raymond Elliott*

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About the Author Ana Mara Prez-Girons is an adjunct Professor of Spanish at Western University, Middletown, Connecticut. She received a Licenciatura en Filología Anglogermánica from the Universidad de Sevilla in 1985, and her M.A. in General Linguistics from Cornell University in 1988. Her professional interests include second language acquisition and the integration of cultural competence and technology in language teaching. Anne Becher received her M.A. in Hispanic Linguistics in 1992 from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she coordinates Beginning Spanish and teaches pedagogy and methods courses for the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. She has taught beginning through advanced levels of Spanish since 1996, including several years teaching Modified Spanish classes for students with difficulty learning languages. Thalia Dorwick has taught at Allegheny College, California State University (Sacramento), and Case Western Reserve University, where she received her Ph.D. in Spanish in 1973. She has been recognized as an Outstanding Foreign Language Teacher by the California Foreign Language Teachers Association. Dr. Dorwick is the coauthor of several textbooks and the author of several articles on language teaching issues. Dr. Casilde A. Isabelli is an Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Nevada, Reno, who received her Ph.D. in Spanish Applied Linguistics and a certificate in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001. Her research concerns adult second language acquisition in the formal classroom and study-abroad setting, multilingualism, and pedagogy. She has taught and/or currently teaches: Teaching of Foreign Languages Seminar, Romance Applied Linguistics, Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics, Spanish Phonetics and Phonology, and Spanish Composition, and hybrid Beginning Spanish. She was also the Coordinator of the Basic Spanish Language Program at UNR from 2001 until 2010. In addition to teaching at UNR since 2000, she has taught at the University of Iowa, the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Universitat de Barcelona, and Sonoma State University.