

Jessica Nelson, M.Sc.

Tutor and Adjunct Faculty, English as a Second Language

Jessica Nelson has served as a Tutor and Adjunct Faculty in English as a Second Language at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C[®]) since 2013.

In 2003, after graduating from Cleveland State University, Jessica joined the Peace Corps and went to Azerbaijan, a Republic located on the border of Europe and Asia between Russia and Iran. As a Peace Corps volunteer in several Azeri villages, Jessica taught English as a Second Language (ESL) and learned to speak Azeri.

After her Peace Corps service, Jessica returned to Azerbaijan independently to live in the capital city, Baku, where she ran an English language newspaper, consulted with media outlets, and continued to teach ESL to oil industry employees and the children of diplomats.

Jessica returned to Cleveland to work for a magazine and newswire service and also attended Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania, where she earned her Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Applied Intelligence and wrote a graduate thesis entitled “The Best Way to Teach Foreign Languages to Intelligence Analysts”.

Jessica was recruited out of graduate school to work at a large Washington-area based security contractor where she supervised a team of foreign national linguists and worked with between 75 and 100 different foreign languages.

In the 2012- 2013 school year, Jessica returned to Azerbaijan through the U.S. State Department’s Fulbright Program.

In her free time, Jessica enjoys dancing, jogging, reading, playing darts, appearing in local film and media productions, modern and contemporary art, and remodeling furniture.

Speech Topics:

- **Azerbaijan:** *Speaker Jessica Nelson served in the Peace Corps for one year in Azerbaijan, a republic located on the border of Europe and Asia between Russia and Iran, and lived there extensively over a period of nine years. This speech discusses Azeri culture, language, or geopolitics.*
- **The Peace Corps:** *Speaker Jessica Nelson served in the Peace Corps for one year in Azerbaijan, a republic located on the board of Europe and Asia between Russia and Iran. This speech discusses the Peace Corps experience and factors to be considered by those considering joining the Peace Corps. The speaker is open to questions and to customizing this speech based upon audience requests.*

- **Caucasus:** *The Caucasus is a region at the border of Europe and Asia that is home to the Caucasus Mountains and consists of Southwestern Russia and the northern parts of Georgia and Azerbaijan. The Caucasus is one of the most linguistically and culturally diverse regions in the World. In its history it has been a part of the Ottoman Empire and the Soviet Union. Languages spoken include Armenian, Georgian, Azerbaijani, and Russian; and the region is also religiously diverse including Eastern Orthodox Christians, Oriental Orthodox Christians, and Sunni Muslims and Shia Islam. Speaker Jessica Nelson spent one year in the Peace Corps in Azerbaijan, and has lived in the region three times since 2004. She will discuss her experiences.*
- **Foreign Languages and Foreign Language Translation:** *Jessica will speak about the best way to teach foreign languages to intelligence analysts, best practices in working in a diverse professional environment of non-native English speakers, and how to quickly determine the veracity of a translation.*
- **U.S. Intelligence Community:** *Jessica can speak from the perspective of a young person starting out in this field.*
- **National Security:** *Jessica can speak from the perspective of a young person starting out in this field.*