



SEPTEMBER 2020
Humanizing Your Course

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Featured Video

Humanizing Your Course

Humanized learning increases the relevance of content and improves



Photo taken prior to COVID-19.

students' motivation. Students can see themselves as part of a larger community with instructors who foster connections. Explore strategies to improve awareness, empathy, and presence. Learn about specific techniques, activities, and course design ideas that can help to humanize any course. [Watch Humanizing Your Course!](#)

Strategy of the Month

Create a Friendly and Approachable Social Presence

To start the semester on a positive note, be sure to use a tone that reflects you and your personality. Extremely short emails and reminders can sound terse and unfriendly. Look at your message from the student perspective. Do your communications sound distant and unapproachable or friendly and inviting? Keep it genuine and authentically you without trying to sound “cool.”

Digital Postcards can help you establish a friendly and open tone in the class. Create a video postcard in place of a written weekly announcement. Use your phone to make an on-the-go video that shows students a little bit of your life. Check out this great example of a [video postcard!](#) For more easy-to-use strategies check out the [UF Instructor Guide](#).

Featured Workshop

Using Digital Storytelling Tools for Engaging Remote Teaching

Presented by Laken Brooks

During this period of online and hybrid teaching, many instructors and writers are using digital methods to engage their classes. You can use storytelling tools like



Photo taken prior to COVID-19.

Twine to present dynamic stories with a "choose-your-own" model as students click through different options. In this workshop, you will discover several dynamic, affordable, and easy-to-use digital tools. Then work with other participants to write a Twine "build-your-own-adventure" from scratch. **This workshop will be held on 9/14 from 2:30pm-4:00pm via Zoom.** [Register for Using Digital Storytelling Tools for Engaging Remote Teaching!](#)

***Note:** If you are unable to register, you may need to [create a Passport Portal account](#) first. If you are still unable to register, [email us](#).*

Helpful Tip

Interpersonal relationships are key so take time to build a community of learners.

Here are a few quick ways to foster a sense of community in both online and face-to-face classes:

Icebreakers

To get started on the right foot, plan an icebreaker activity that will give your students a chance to get to know each other and begin building a sense of community and connection.

Isn't that Cool

To encourage ongoing quality and scholarly interaction, you can add an "Isn't That Cool" discussion board. It can be a place where you allow students to post things they discover in their everyday lives that relate to the course.

Sharing is Caring

For the benefit of all students, you can add a "Sharing is Caring" discussion board, where students can share notes they have taken during lectures and labs. This encourages great note-taking and develops a rich resource for the whole class to share.

Celebrate

In the busyness of the semester, it is easy to forget to celebrate milestones and victories, both big and small. Celebrate regularly! Make a big deal of exam successes, great papers, and groups that went above and beyond expectations.

Did You Know?

Florida
CourseShare



**Have You Heard About Florida
CourseShare?**

Florida CourseShare is a new initiative that uses Canvas Commons as an online repository for sharing digital course materials, donated from faculty across the Florida State University System. All materials in the collection have earned a “High Quality” designation through the Florida Quality Online Course Review Process. To learn how to access or donate resources, visit our [Florida CourseShare webpage!](#)

Applications Are Open for the OER Learning Community!

Want to make your course more affordable and equitable for all students? **Apply by Sept. 25th** to join [Affordable Access for Student Success](#), a UF learning community on open educational resources.

This year-long program (*Spring/Fall 2021*) will develop a small cohort of instructors committed to the development of free, open course materials through intensive training and mentorship. Over the course of the program, you will develop an initial prototype for an OER, as well as a long-term project plan. [Submit your application!](#)

#NWT

**No Walls Teaching: The Story
Continues**

The Center for Teaching Excellence has added more No Walls Teaching (NWT) events and workshops for the fall semester! In our kickoff [Escape Room event](#), you'll collaborate with folks from across campus to solve puzzles to find remote-teaching resources. Join us for our September [Social Hour & Brainstorming](#) event, where you can participate in one of several themed discussion groups to brainstorm ideas to expand learning outside of the physical classroom. For more information about NWT and a full list of NWT events and workshops, visit our [NWT webpage](#).

Spotlight



Photo taken prior to COVID-19.

Supporting First Generation Students' Learning

Humanized online courses are particularly beneficial for first generation and minority students who are new to online learning. Create a welcoming setting in online courses by inviting students to participate in scholarly conversations with their instructor and each other, and encouraging ongoing collaboration among peers.

In the *First Generation Students* Teaching Beyond the Podium podcast, Adrian Cruz, a first generation graduate student in Industrial and Systems Engineering and Machen Scholar, shares his story filled with laughter, struggles, and successes. Dr. Leslie Pendleton, Ph.D., Senior Director of the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, provides strategies to better support first generation students and minority students. Listen to [First Generation Students!](#)

Sources:

[STEM faculty who believe ability is fixed have larger racial achievement gaps and inspire less motivation in their classes](#) (Canning, E. A., Muenks, K., Green, D.J., Murphy, M. C., 2019)

[Creating an Effective Online Instructor Presence](#) (Community College Research Center, 2013)

September Events & Workshops

More information and registration for all workshops can be found in the [Passport Portal](#). If you are unable to register for a workshop, please [create a Passport Portal account](#), then try registering again after you receive a confirmation email. For help navigating the Passport Portal, [view the user guide](#).

Collaborating with the Community: An Approach to Experiential Learning

#NWT

When: 9.9.20 1:00PM-2:30PM

Where: Online

Presented by Erika Brooke

This workshop will focus on how communities' interactions can enrich experiential learning opportunities for students. Specifically, the workshop will cover ways to find and connect with community partners along with different assignment strategies that can be utilized in collaboration with community partners. [Register for Collaborating with the Community: An Approach to Experiential Learning!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

#NWT

Virtual Simulations in Large and/or Online Classes

When: 9.10.20 1:00PM-2:00PM

Where: Online

Presented by Diba Mani

Incorporating virtual simulations in small groups to elaborate on course concepts actively engages students in both large and online classes. This approach to instruction is fairly simple to facilitate through breakout rooms in Zoom for synchronous online courses and Groups in Canvas for asynchronous. In this workshop, you will see an example virtual simulation already incorporated in a non-lab based course. [Register for Virtual Simulations in Large and/or Online Classes!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

Online Active Learning in a Pinch!

When: 9.16.20 1:30PM-3:00PM

Where: Online

Presented by Alexandra Bitton-Bailey

Test out some quick and effective active learning strategies that

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engage and motivate your students. These techniques include:

- Preparation activities to hold students accountable for the reading before class meets
- Cooperative learning tasks for pairs of students in breakout rooms
- Help students acquire a deep understanding with a peer teaching exercise

This session will provide useful details on how to coordinate these activities online. [Register for Online Active Learning in a Pinch!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

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Creating Global Classrooms through Virtual Exchange

When: 9.17.20 10:00AM-11:00AM

Where: Online

Presented by Paloma Rodriguez

In this workshop, you will discover different types of virtual exchange activities designed by UF faculty and learn how international virtual exchange can benefit students and faculty alike. This session will provide information on the UF Global Classrooms initiative, including VE trainings and resources to find international collaborators for course projects. [Register for](#)

[Creating Global Classrooms through Virtual Exchange!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

Escape Room Kickoff

When: 9.17.20 4:00PM-6:00PM

Where: Online

Presented by The Center for Teaching Excellence

Solve puzzles to discover resources for creative online teaching while collaborating with the UF community! [Register for the Escape Room Kickoff!](#)

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Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this event. [Create an account.](#)

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Climbing Bloom's Taxonomy with Google Suite

When: 9.18.20 10:00AM-11:30AM

Where: Online

Presented by Megan Mocko

Do you want to increase the level of student's engagement during your Zoom lectures? Do you want your students to do more than listen? Google suite tools can be the solution. In this workshop, you will learn how to use G suite tools to have the students compare, evaluate, compose and much more. These tools are a great option for the online environment. In this workshop, you will see different example activities and be given a chance to brainstorm your own. [Register for Climbing Bloom's Taxonomy with Google Suite!](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Motivation I – Ideas to Transform Your Lecture

When: 9.23.20 10:00AM-11:30AM

Where: Online

Presented by Kim Moore

We teach the way we were taught. But is this the best way to motivate our students to come to class? Does a bullet list and



Power Point presentation motivate students to come to class?
This workshop will explore ways to transform your lecture using
TedTalk ideas that might get students excited about lecture.
[Register for Motivation I – Ideas to Transform Your Lecture!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

UDL: Designing Instruction for the Love of Learning

When: 9.24.20 1:00PM-2:30PM

Where: Online

Presented by Gerry Altamirano & Erica McCray

Through Universal Design for Learning (UDL) instructors can impart their love for their subject-matter and ensure that all students have effective opportunities to learn the content. Session participants will learn about the core tenets of UDL (multiple means of representation, action and expression, and engagement), engage in experiential and dialogic learning, and begin applying UDL to their own courses and activities. Presenters (Gerry Altamirano, Assistant Dean/Director of the Disability Resource Center; Erica McCray, Associate Professor of Special Education) have expertise in education and supporting the learning of individuals with varying abilities. [Register for UDL: Designing Instruction for the Love of Learning!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

Social Hour & Brainstorming

When: 9.17.20 4:00PM-6:00PM

Where: Online

Presented by The Center for Teaching Excellence

Join one of the themed discussion groups to brainstorm ideas to expand learning outside of the physical classroom. Each discussion group will have one No Walls Teaching Champion who

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will help guide the discussion. You will brainstorm teaching strategies that can be implemented into remotely taught courses right away! [Register for the Social Hour & Brainstorming event!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this event. [Create an account.](#)*

#NWT

Authentic Assessment in Online Teaching

When: 9.30.20 2:00PM-3:30PM

Where: Online

Presented by Gillian Lord

Evaluating student outcomes is essential to the success of any course or program, regardless of discipline or delivery mode. While educators recognize the importance of assessment, in many disciplines the methods of assessment have remained stagnant, even as methodologies and best practices evolve.

This workshop will discuss some essential elements of evaluation:

- high and low stakes assessments
- formative and summative assessments
- authentic assessment

We will delve deeply into the foundational principles of authentic assessment in ways that are relevant to testing students' skills and knowledge in realistic situations. The examples used in this session are applicable to online, hybrid and face-to-face delivery modes; and the basic tenets of the approach can be applied to a wide range of disciplines and contexts. [Register for Authentic Assessment in Online Teaching!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

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