

INSPIRED TEACHING

FIRST DAY OF CLASS STRATEGIES



FEATURED PODCAST

FIRST DAY OF CLASS STRATEGIES

Faculty from across campus share some of their most memorable first day experiences and strategies that they have developed to start the semester off right! Featured guests in this podcast include Dr. Kimberly Moore, Dr. Gillian Lord, Dr. Hector Perez, LB Hannahs, Dr. Melissa Johnson, and Dr. Melanie Harris. Visit Center for Teaching Excellence's [Teaching Beyond the Podium Podcast webpage](#) to listen to *First Day of Class Strategies!*



STRATEGY OF THE MONTH

BEST & WORST CLASSES ICEBREAKER

Icebreakers build rapport between the instructor and the class, help ease students' first-day jitters and set expectations for the remainder

of the semester. Here is a favorite of ours: Divide the chalkboard/whiteboard into 2 sections. On one side, write 'the best class I have ever had' and on the other write 'the worst class I have ever had.' Under each of these headings, write 'what the teacher did' and 'what the students did.' Have your students fill in their experiences under each sub-heading (advise them not to mention identifying information like names or course numbers). Then review their responses and point out feasible actions that you and your students can take to make the semester a success.

HELPFUL TIP

COMMON PRACTICE:

Reading the syllabus aloud on the first day of class.

Students are likely to disengage which makes for wasted class time.

NEW IDEA:

Have students participate in a 'Background Knowledge Probe.'

A Background Knowledge Probe is a short, simple, focused questionnaire that students fill out at the beginning of a course or start of a new unit that helps teachers identify the best starting point for the class as a whole. Read more about this strategy at the K. Patricia Cross Academy [website](#).

AUGUST 2019

- *First Day of Class Strategies* Podcast
- Best & Worst Classes Icebreaker
- International Student Inclusiveness Workshop
- Outcome-Based Test Workshop
- New Office & Open House
- New Passport to Great Teaching Certificates & Tool
- August Workshops

MORE RESOURCES

For more icebreaker and syllabus activities, see the Center for Teaching Excellence's [Resource Library Class Start web page](#). For some good ideas on how to make the most of the first five minutes of class see, Jim Lang's [Small Changes in Teaching: Making Connections](#). Also, make sure to check out the The [K. Patricia Cross Academy](#) for great start of class activities!



FEATURED WORKSHOP

HAVING AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM FOR GLOBALIZATION: LEADING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS THROUGH GAPS

This workshop will help to identify the needs, difficulties, and challenges that international students face, and discuss the social psychological, cultural, and institutional reasons behind their behaviors. Together, participants will identify visible and invisible gaps between the perspectives of international students and faculty, and discuss strategies for how to overcome these gaps. The workshop will be held on August 28th from 2:30pm-3:30pm in room 201 Bryant Space Science Center.

WHY WE LIKE IT

Faculty are working to give all students opportunities to engage in activities that promote diversity and inclusion on campus. It is especially important



to provide an inclusive and supportive learning environment for international students who face unique obstacles. The challenges university faculty face is to make sure everyone can thrive

academically and socially in a safe and welcoming environment. Ultimately great academia is connected to great diversity.



FEATURED WORKSHOP

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE, OUTCOME-BASED TESTS

In this two-part workshop, participants will practice using backward design to incorporate student learning outcomes into their course, align the learning outcomes with course content, develop effective multiple-choice tests to assess student achievement of the learning outcomes, and refine the course design, course content, and test items based on the test results. The workshop will be held on

September 13th & 20th
from 12:30pm-3:30pm in
room 201 Bryant Space
Science Center.



WHY WE LIKE IT

Creating effective assessments can be a challenge. Using backward design helps ensure that the course remains focused on the end goal and promotes a better understanding of the course content and meaningful student learning. Backward design generally allows for the destination to be designated before the course is mapped, allowing for assessment that closely reflect student learning.



SPOTLIGHT

NEW CERTIFICATES

The Passport to Great Teaching program is launching three new certificates this fall: Great Online Teaching Certificate, Great Teaching Certificate: TA Edition, and Great Teaching using Universal Design Certificate. More information and registration on the [Center for Teaching Excellence website](#).



WORKSHOPS

AUGUST

TEACHING ENHANCEMENT SYMPOSIUM

WHEN: 8.13.19 8:30AM-3:00PM
WHERE: UF HILTON

Create meaningful learning experiences through an interactive-style conference with independent breakout sessions. Enjoy a luncheon while listening to keynote speaker Dr. Peter Doolittle.

TA ORIENTATION

WHEN: 8.13.19 8:00AM-12:30PM
WHERE: CARLETON AUDITORIUM

The TA Orientation is required for all new teaching assistants, and covers the formal requirements for being a TA at UF.

TEACHING WITH EPORTFOLIOS

WHEN: 8.27.19 12:00PM-1:30PM
WHERE: 201 BRYANT SPACE SCIENCE CENTER

Learn about the impact of eportfolio practice on student learning and gain an understanding of how eportfolios can support integrative learning. Get guidance and advice on how to implement eportfolio projects.



DID YOU KNOW?

WE MOVED!

Our new office space is located in suite 200 at Bryant Space Science Center.

WE'RE HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE!

Enjoy light refreshments and see our new space on August 23rd from 2:00pm-5:00pm. We look forward to seeing you then!

HAVING AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM FOR GLOBALIZATION: LEADING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS THROUGH GAPS

WHEN: 8.28.19 2:30PM-3:30PM
WHERE: 201 BRYANT SPACE SCIENCE CENTER

Learn to identify the needs, difficulties, and challenges that international students face, and discuss the various reasons behind their behaviors. Together, participants will identify visible and invisible gaps between the perspectives of international students and faculty, and discuss strategies for how to overcome these gaps.

CONVERSATIONS FOR A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

WHEN: 8.29.19 1:30PM-4:30PM
WHERE: 201 BRYANT SPACE SCIENCE CENTER

Discover specific inclusive behaviors and strategies proven to increase engagement, innovation, and productivity in the workplace. Participants will recognize unconscious behaviors that derail a team's full potential and practice strategies to create a respectful culture that optimizes performance and produces great results.

CLASSROOMS, COMMUNITY, AND CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

WHEN: 8.30.19 2:30PM-4:00PM
WHERE: 201 BRYANT SPACE SCIENCE CENTER

The foundation of trust is imperative for critical dialogue which can enhance learning, identity development, and intercultural communication among students. Participants will learn the best practices for building community and increasing trust within a classroom.

TO REGISTER AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS MONTH'S WORKSHOPS, VISIT TEACH.UFL.EDU