UF | Center for Teaching Excellence
UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA

∩NSPIRED TEACHING
a monthly newsletter offering tips & strategies for great teaching

February 2021
Spark Your Students' Creativity!

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Featured Podcast

Teaching Beyond the Podium

Using Infographics as a Teaching Tool | Dr. Rick Kates

Using Infographics as a Teaching Tool

Looking for a way that your students can engage with each other, the course content, and demonstrate their understanding that goes beyond paper writing or exams? Check out how Dr. Rick Kates, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy uses infographics in his class to promote creativity and deepen students' understanding of the material. Listen to Using Infographics as a Teaching Tool!

Strategy of the Month

Give Your Students Choice!

Creative assignments encourage students to become more engaged and motivate them to generate and communicate ideas. Solving interesting and complex problems also pique their individual curiosities. Students are naturally more inclined to push themselves and each other when solving problems they care about. Students may be a little apprehensive about creative assignments especially if they have had few opportunities to make choices about their learning paths. Creative assignments help students focus and develop their strengths and interests while giving them some space to think critically about course topics (Faculty Focus, 2013).

Steps for giving students choice through a personal preference project assignment are:

1. Students decide the format (paper, podcast, video, website, etc.) and topic of their project
2. Students submit their topic of choice for approval during the second week of class
3. The content of the project reflects the course learning outcomes and/or professionally specified standards
4. Project evaluation and presentation rubrics are included in your syllabus materials
5. Projects are completed and presented at the end of the semester

Tip - Provide incremental deadlines to help students successfully complete the project!

Featured Workshop

Hybrid Active Learning

Presented by Alexandra Bitton-Bailey
Test out some quick and effective active learning strategies that engage and motivate your students in person and online. 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
• Peer teaching exercises that help students showcase their learning

This session will provide useful details on how to coordinate these activities in a HyFlex class. The workshops will be held on February 3rd from 1:30pm-3:00pm. Register for Hybrid Active Learning!

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Helpful Tip

Explain the Value of Creative Assignments to Your Students

Remind your students that creative and authentic assignments better reflect what they might do in a professional setting. These assignments can help them develop critical thinking skills that can be applied in any field.

Did You Know?

Interface 2021: Registration is Open!

The annual Interface Teaching Conference provides faculty, staff, TAs, GAs, and post-docs with new strategies for great teaching and learning through interactive breakout sessions. This year, the conference will be held virtually on **April 14 from 1:00PM-5:00PM and April 15 from 1:00PM-4:00PM**. Visit the Interface webpage to view the agenda, breakout sessions, presenters, and keynote speakers. Register for Interface 2021!

Magna Mentor

How Can I Inspire Creative Confidence in the Classroom?

Encouraging students to believe in their ability to innovate sets them up for success in school and life. As students strengthen their ability to reframe questions, adapt to uncertainty, and work with information in transformative ways, they learn skills they'll use throughout their careers. Watch the video or read the transcript.

Note: You must be logged into Canvas to access the video.

Spotlight

No Walls Teaching eBook

Check out the new creative assignments shared by UF faculty in the No Walls Teaching eBook! The book offers step-by-step instructions on implementing engaging activities and captivating assignments that expand learning beyond the confines of the classroom and computer screen! These activities can also fit into the HyFlex modality. Visit the eBook!

No Walls Teaching: The Book

Developed by the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Florida

February 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.

Maximize Learning with Asynchronous Discussions
2.2.21 2:00PM-3:30PM via Zoom

Presented by Jennifer K. Smith
Small group discussion is a flexible teaching tool that can support the

development of critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills. However, managing discussion sessions in your HyFlex classroom may be challenging. Asynchronous discussion assignments can be combined with your in-class activities to help ensure that all students are able to dig deep into your course topics. Register for Maximize Learning with Asynchronous Discussions!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Making Online Learning Active with Team-Based Learning (TBL)
2.4.21 10:00AM-12:00PM via Zoom

Presented by Michelle Farland & Misti Sharp

Team-based learning (TBL) is an instructional method that holds students accountable for learning before class, encourages them to stay engaged the entire class and pushes them to higher order learning. TBL is composed of three phases: pre-class preparation, readiness assurance, and team applications. During this process students strengthen problem solving, communication, and teamwork skills while diving deep into the course objectives. This workshop will introduce you to the basic components of TBL and identify critical elements that keep students engaged. The workshop will also demonstrate how TBL can be effectively implemented in a synchronous blended online environment. Prior to attending the workshop there is a 4-page summary of TBL to review. Register for Making Online Learning Active with Team-Based Learning!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this event. Create an account.*

Comparing Physical and Virtual Laboratory Simulations
2.5.21 11:00AM-12:00PM via Zoom

Presented by Diba Mani

Are virtual lab simulations as effective in promoting student learning as physical labs? This workshop introduces the benefits and challenges associated with physical and virtual simulations by referencing peer-reviewed research. In doing so, the successful incorporation of a virtual simulation in an upper division STEM course will be shared with the intention of motivating other instructors to

also integrate active learning strategies into their classrooms. Register for Comparing Physical and Virtual Laboratory Simulations!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Asynchronous Active Learning with VoiceThread
2.9.21 10:00AM-12:00PM via Zoom

Presented by Crystal Marull

This workshop offers you a quick and easy **asynchronous** solution to take your face-2-face classroom activities or lectures and convert them into dynamic, engaging, and interactive activities. VoiceThread is a UF licensed tool that can use your existing ppt, pdf or doc files. We will walk you through steps to create, share, and grade a robust learning activity that supports your learning goals. Register for Asynchronous Active Learning with VoiceThread!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Getting started with PressbooksEDU Webinar
2.10.21 1:00PM-2:15PM via Zoom

This training session is open to all users of hosted PressbooksEDU networks and is designed for users who are new to Pressbooks. Attendees will learn how to get started with Pressbooks, from creating a new book to publishing and exporting offline versions of the text. Topics covered in this sessions:

1. Creating a new book
2. Adding book information, metadata and selecting a license
3. Creating front matter, back matter, parts, and chapters
4. Using the editor to add and edit book content
5. Using the features available, as well as using the editor to add visual elements
6. Importing content from other sources
7. Cloning a book
8. Changing a book's theme and customizing its appearance on the web and in various export formats
9. Producing and sharing export files

Register for Getting started with PressbooksEDU!

Collaborative Learning Techniques
2.11.21 10:30AM-12:00PM via Zoom

Presented by Alexandra Bitton-Bailey

Have you flipped your classroom, or you have decided you want to make your lectures more engaging and interactive. How about using group work to promote learning using carefully designed and facilitated collaborative learning techniques? This workshop offers a variety of collaborative learning techniques you can use immediately in your class. Best of all, the workshop provides detailed descriptions of the techniques along with step by step facilitation tips. We will also share helpful resources so you can successfully implement activities that will engage your whole class! Register for Collaborative Learning Techniques!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Mindfulness Practices: Facing Our Fears with Kindness and Compassion
2.12.21 10:00AM-11:30AM via Zoom

Presented by Maria Leite, Ana Puig & Elizabeth Washington

During this workshop we invite you to think about tenderness, compassion, and how you respond to your fears while understanding the fears of others. The anxiety of the moment requires us to stop, think, evaluate, and act with kindness and compassion toward others, but also toward ourselves. You have had to shift to a new teaching format; students have gone through shifts as well. The aim of this workshop is to provide space for exploring our vulnerability, courage, and compassion through mindful awareness. Register for Mindfulness Practices: Facing Our Fears with Kindness and Compassion!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Building a Classroom Community Virtually
2.16.21 2:30PM-4:00PM via Zoom

Presented by Harrison Hove

Making your classroom warm and welcoming for all learners is challenging

enough in a traditional setting. It becomes even more important in a virtual setting. Making an intentional decision to build your classroom community while in a virtual setting will make your students more likely to engage, empower students to contribute, and increase the likelihood of students building meaningful professional relationships with their peers.

In this workshop, we will discuss the importance of creating classroom community in an online environment. Participants will learn about a number of different techniques and activities that build community. Together, we will brainstorm which techniques might be most beneficial for your individual needs and identify ways to seamlessly incorporate these techniques into your course. Register for Building a Classroom Community Virtually!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Advanced PressbooksEDU Publishing Webinar
2.16.21 1:00PM-2:15PM via Zoom

This training session is open to all users on hosted PressbooksEDU networks and is designed for users who have some familiarity with Pressbooks and are ready to engage in more complex activities, like adding interactive elements or integrating Pressbooks with supported third-party tools. Topics covered in this session:

1. Cloning and adapting an openly licensed book and using the source comparison tool
2. Adding tables, textboxes, and media
3. Creating front matter, back matter, parts, and chapters
4. Using the footnote and glossary features in more advanced ways
5. Creating and displaying mathematical notation
6. Creating interactive activities in the book
7. Enabling web annotation for books
8. How to get help and front-line support for their network from published guides and their network managers.

Register for Advanced PressbooksEDU Publishing!

Conversations for a Culture of Inclusion
2.18.21 9:00AM-12:00PM via Zoom

Presented by Irma Alvarez & Gwynn Cadwallader

Do you engage with your colleagues in a way that brings out their best? Does your team collaborate in a way that combines the unique talents and abilities of each member to achieve big goals? In this discussion-based course, you will 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. Embark on a shared journey with Gators Together! Register for Conversations for a Culture of Inclusion!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Course Evaluations: Increasing Response Rates and Interpreting Results
2.22.21 11:00AM-12:00PM via Zoom

Presented by John Jordi

In this workshop we will discuss strategies to increase response rates for course evaluations. We will also delve into the new GatorEvals Individual faculty reports, as well as ways in which you can use this data for course improvement. Register for Course Evaluations: Increasing Response Rates and Interpreting Results!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Everyday UDL: Strategies for Infusing Universal Design for Learning
2.23.21 2:00PM-3:30PM via Zoom

Presented by Consuelo Kreider & Truly Hardemon

Workshop facilitators will [1] review principals of universal design for learning (UDL), [2] identify challenges to its implementation, [3] share simple and data-driven strategies for engaging students and mentees with diverse learning and communication abilities, and [4] share strategies for recognizing when implementation these simple UDL strategies are needed. Register for Everyday UDL: Strategies for Infusing Universal Design for Learning!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

Motivation II – Ideas to Stay Excited About Teaching
2.25.21 10:00AM-11:30AM via Zoom

Presented by Kim Moore
As instructors, we work to improve our courses and engage our students. But after a while, it can be hard to get excited about the new semester and the looming workload that comes with each class. This workshop will explore ideas on ways to get excited about teaching. Register for Motivation II – Ideas to Stay Excited About Teaching!

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.*

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