

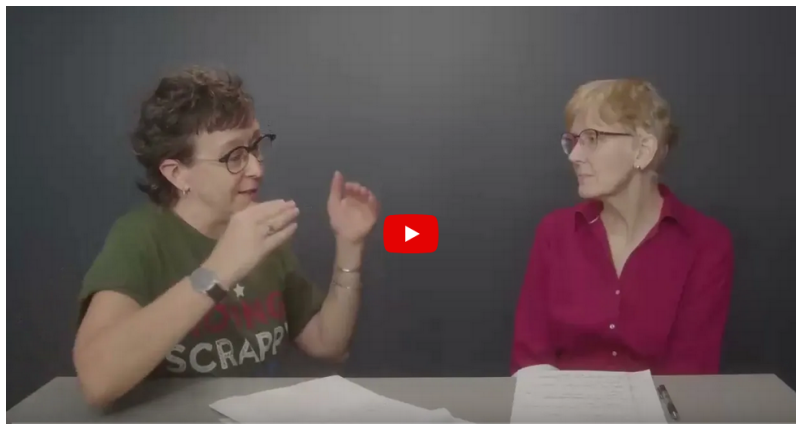


## September 2022

### Managing Difficult Conversations

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## Featured Video



### Teaching Controversial Topics

Do you discuss topics in your class that could potentially be polarizing? If not structured, discussions about controversial topics can stray from your intended objectives and become personal and divisive. Listen as Dr. Trysh Travis, Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, shares how she lays the groundwork for discussions by focusing on source material and avoiding debates based on personal opinions.

**[Watch Difficult Conversations in the Classroom with Trysh Travis!](#)**

# Strategy of the Month

## Establishing Ground Rules

If you've ever watched a class discussion or another public meeting spin out of control, you most likely understand the importance of effective ground rules. Ground rules can provide the guardrails to keep a controversial discussion on track. Adult students appreciate being involved in creating the ground rules. Doing so can help them be internally motivated to abide by the guidelines and keep each other in check. Here are some examples of ground rules for the class to consider from the article "[Managing Difficult Classroom Discussions](#)" (Indiana University of Bloomington's [Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning](#); see also "[Difficult Dialogues](#)" on UF's Center for Teaching Excellence website):

- Listen respectfully, without interrupting
  - Criticize ideas, not individuals or groups
  - Avoid inflammatory language, including name-calling
  - Ask questions when you don't understand; don't assume you know others' thinking or motivations
  - Don't expect any individuals to speak on behalf of their gender, ethnic group, class, status, etc. (or the groups we perceive them to be a part of)
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## Featured Workshop

### Insights from GatorEvals

*Presented by John Jordi, Ph.D.*

Student evaluation data is a rich source of feedback from our students. This workshop will focus on aggregate level findings of the most common themes our students are sharing in our GatorEvals. We will discuss the findings and how we can identify areas of improvement and create a plan to implement and re-evaluate adjustments to our courses.

This workshop will be held on **September 8 from 10:00–11:00 AM** via Zoom. [Register for Insights from GatorEvals.](#)

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

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## Did You Know?

### Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs) are starting!

FLCs are peer-led groups of faculty, staff, and graduate students who engage in an active, collaborative, year-long program structured to provide encouragement, support, and reflection.

[Learn more about UF's FLCs.](#)

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## Helpful Tip

When class discussions get heated, here are some strategies you can use to diffuse tensions and encourage reflection:

- The Critical Incident Questionnaire. Set aside 10 minutes for the class to respond in writing to a few questions like: At what moment were you most engaged? Most distanced? What did you find affirming or helpful? Puzzling or confusing? What surprised you?
- The Five Minute Rule. Give the class five minutes to take an invisible or marginalized perspective and entertain it respectfully. Ask the class to write about the merits of a perspective, refrain from criticizing it, and make an effort to believe it. Then ask them to report on what was interesting, helpful, intriguing, or different.

For more information on these techniques and some others, read [“Difficult Dialogues”](#) (Vanderbilt University’s Center for Teaching).

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## SPOTLIGHT

Explore [Resources for Difficult Dialogues.](#)

(requires you to log into Canvas).

Discussing difficult topics in your courses can be tricky—for you and your students. But that doesn't mean a discussion about them has to be divisive or hostile. This Canvas site provides resources you can use to cultivate a learning environment where differing viewpoints can be shared and respectfully examined. The site addresses the following questions (and others submitted by UF faculty):

- How can I establish a quality learning environment?
- How can I manage dialogue about controversial topics?
- How can I help students consider alternative viewpoints?
- What can I do if a student complains?

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## September Workshops

More information and registration for all Passport to Great Teaching 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.

### **Make It Global: Curriculum Internationalization**

9.7.22 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

*Presented by Paloma Rodriguez*

Learn how to enhance your courses with international case studies, activities, and perspectives. This workshop will also expose you to best practices such as international virtual exchange and useful frameworks (i.e., the UN Sustainable Development Goals) that can be used to infuse international concepts and activities into any discipline. The session will provide an overview of relevant data on the attitudes and beliefs of UF students towards global issues and intercultural communication you can use to fine tune your teaching. You will also receive a self-assessment tool to measure the internationalization of your current courses. [Register for Make It Global: Curriculum Internationalization!](#)

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

**Insights from GatorEvals***9.8.22 10:00 - 11:00 AM**Presented by John Jordi*

Student evaluation data is a rich source of feedback from our students. This workshop will focus on aggregate level findings of the most common themes our students are talking about in our GatorEvals. We will discuss the findings and how we can identify areas of improvement and creating a plan to implement and re-evaluate adjustments to our courses. Register for [Insights from GatorEvals!](#)

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

**Bridging Differences for Better Mentoring (Session 1)***9.8.22 12:00 - 1:30 PM**Presented by Lisa Fain*

The Southeastern Conference (SEC), the University of Florida and the International Mentoring Association (IMA) are pleased to offer this three-part series that provides faculty and staff with tools for effective multicultural mentoring. Participants who take all three live sessions will earn a certificate in multicultural mentoring. Register for [Bridging Differences for Better Mentoring \(Session 1\)](#)!

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

**Internationalizing Your Curriculum with the SDGs***9.19.22 2:00 - 3:00 PM**Presented by Natalie Coers*

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a strong framework for internationalizing curriculum across disciplines. Join us to gain a basic understanding of the UN SDGs and learn about numerous resources available to help connect your course ---introductory or discipline specific -- to the SDGs. We will also share a new resource - Sustainable Development Goals in the Classroom developed by an interdisciplinary group at UF! Register for [Internationalizing Your Curriculum with the SDGs!](#)

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

### **Level Up Your Lectures!**

9.21.22 3:00 - 4:30 PM

*Presented by Michael Barber*

Learn how to level up your lecturing and teaching practices in this hands-on workshop! In this interactive session you will explore what your body language and vocal tone say to your students. This session will also provide you with practical tips for communicating with your students and help you incorporate new physical and vocal habits that will allow you to communicate and lecture more effectively. Register for [Level Up Your Lectures!](#)

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

### **Elements of Effective Mentoring**

9.23.22 10:00 - 11:30 AM

*Presented by Samira Daroub*

In this session focused on effective mentoring, Dr. Daroub will present practices of effective communication and aligning expectations with students. The session is interactive sharing ideas, best practices, and case study discussions focused on aligning expectations between mentors and mentees. Register for [Elements of Effective Mentoring!](#)

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

### **Samuel Proctor Oral History Workshop**

9.28.22 4:00 - 5:00 PM

*Presented by Paul Ortiz and Adolfo Romeo*

This workshop will focus on the methodology and equipment, and accessibility of SPOHP's oral histories. Panelists will discuss how participants can access SPOHP's collections from UFDC and YouTube. Register for [Samuel Proctor Oral History Workshop!](#)

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

## Integrating Your Research into the Classroom

9.29.22 3:00 - 4:00 PM

*Presented by Anne Donnelly*

Not all students can do one-on-one mentored research. Course Based Undergraduate Research classes are a great way to get help with your research while providing more opportunities for students to gain important research skills. Come learn about UF resources to help faculty develop CURE courses. Register for [Integrating Your Research into the Classroom!](#)

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

## 5 Strategies to Improve Ambulatory Teaching and Meet The Quadruple Aim

9.30.22 9:00 - 10:00 AM

*Presented by Ryan Nall*

This session will focus on 5 strategies to improve education in the ambulatory setting. These strategies will include ways to create a safe learning environment, set expectations, and provide real-time feedback to our learners. We will also explore how medical education has the potential to help us meet our quadruple aim—reduced cost, improved population health, patient experience, and team well-being. Register for [5 Strategies to Improve Ambulatory Teaching and Meet The Quadruple Aim!](#)

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



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