



A monthly newsletter offering tips, strategies
and workshops for great teaching

Inspired Teaching Newsletter

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workshops for great teaching.

February 2025

Problem-Based Learning and Case Studies

Strategy

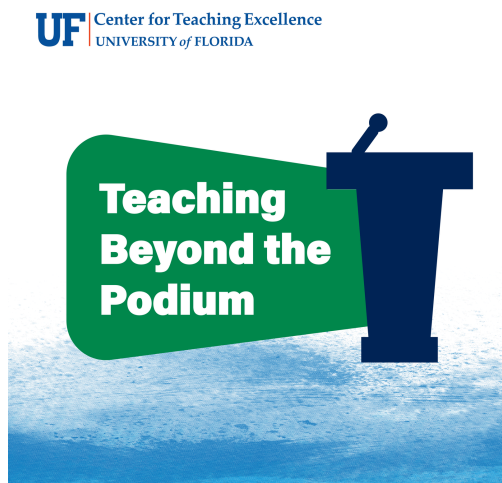
Teaching with a problem-based approach can be a rewarding way to engage your students and encourage active learning. Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is an instructional approach that centers on students working collaboratively to solve real-world problems. By encouraging this style of learning, you're helping them sharpen their problem-solving skills and gain a deeper, more meaningful understanding of the subject matter.

A key feature of PBL is its emphasis on real-world problems. This aspect really gets your students thinking critically and creatively. For example, in an environmental science class, they might develop a plan to reduce pollution in a local river by researching causes, exploring solutions, and evaluating feasibility. They present their findings through reports or presentations, gaining problem-solving, research, and communication skills that helps them gain problem-solving skills they'll need in their future careers.

In a PBL classroom, you will act more as a facilitator, guiding students, encouraging inquiry, and helping them reflect on the learning process. If

you're interested in finding out more, including seeing examples of PBL in action across different disciplines, be sure to visit the [Problem Library](#). It's a great resource to help you get started with implementing PBL in your classroom!

Featured Podcast



Active learning

In this podcast, Dr. Hector Perez, Associate Professor of Seed Biology, Plant Conservation, and Restoration at the University of Florida shares his philosophy, experience, and focus on active learning.

Featured Guests:

Dr. Héctor E. Pérez | [Bio](#)

[Active Learning Transcript.pdf](#)

Listen Here

AI Tip of the Month

AI Across the Curriculum Exemplars

In honor of Engineering Educators Week, we celebrate project-based and hands-on approaches to teaching AI technologies at UF.

- [Evaluate & Create AI: Dr. Ramirez Salgado](#) promotes problem-solving through experimentation and creative application as a meaningful way to learn about AI.

- [Use & Apply AI: Dr. Sanethia Thomas](#) encourages learners to “get out there” and use AI to implement real-world projects in software engineering.
- [Enabling AI: Dr. Sanethia Thomas](#) enables AI exploration in her class to enhance understanding of theoretical foundations and visualize multiple coding solutions.

CTE Awards

Badges:

Artificial Intelligence:

Robert Winsler

Emrah Sahin

CIRTL:

Amanda Decker

Renzo Ceme

Great Online Teaching:

Tiff Jenson

Digital Literacy:

Patricia Sohn

Global Learning:

Tammy Davidson

Mentoring:

Emily Bald

Certificates:

CIRTL Associate Certificate:

Renzo Ceme

Amanda Decker

Great Online Teaching

Certificate:

Tiff Jenson

Great Teaching Certificate: TA

Edition:

Rachel Durr

Great Teaching for New

Faculty Certificate:

Zachary Mott

Heather Young

Featured Workshops

FEATURED WORKSHOPS



Please Note: You must have a Passport Portal account to register for these workshops. [Create an account here.](#)

Creating Global Classrooms Through Virtual Exchange

3/5/2025 | 1:55 PM - 2:55 PM

Instructors: Ana Porras & Carrie Martins

Dr. Ana Porras from the Department of Biomedical Engineering will share her experiences implementing virtual exchange, and we will explore resources to turn your class into a global classroom.

Register here

12 Touchstones of Good Teaching

3/12/2025 | 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Instructors: Jennifer Parker

Explore the 12 touchstones of good teaching, where we focus on strategies for being demanding, supportive, and intentional. Register Here.

Register here

Helpful Tip

Using Case Studies

You know how sometimes you feel like your students are just memorizing facts and formulas, but not really understanding how to apply them in real

life? Well, one way to get them thinking more critically is by using case studies in your teaching. Case studies allow your students to dive deeper into the material and think about how it applies to the world outside the classroom. Plus, they're a great way to get students working together, analyzing and evaluating information, and developing their problem-solving skills.

So, how can you make case studies work for you? You can use case studies as the basis for group work, exams, or even in-class activities. To save time, try using artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as UF's [Navigator Chat](#) to generate customized case studies tailored to your course content and learning objectives. To help you get started, see the section titled "Elevated Recipe: AI Case Study" in the [AI Prompt Cookbook](#).

Tech Tip of the Month

Innovation in Teaching and Learning with NaviGator AI Stipend Opportunity

AI² Center and UFIT CITT are excited to announce a call for proposals for projects that leverage NaviGator AI to transform teaching and learning. [NaviGator AI suite of tools](#) include Navigator Chat, NaviGator Assistant and NaviGator Toolkit powered by HiPerGator provide a unique opportunity for instructors to develop innovative pedagogical experience that incorporate AI to enhance student learning outcomes and promote student success.

For submission details and proposal requirements, please visit the [CITT Website](#).

Proposal Deadline: March 28, 2025 at 5:00pm

Did You Know?

Have you heard about Elevate, a customizable faculty development program offered through the Center for Teaching Excellence? This program is designed to help you create a personalized plan for growth. By working

one-on-one with a CTE consultant, you'll get to assess your teaching practices, explore instructional methods, and even complete a culminating project that showcases your skills. It's a really cool opportunity to learn and grow, and space is limited, so be sure to apply by May 12. Check out the [Elevate website](#) to learn more and get started on your journey to elevating your teaching!

Spotlight

Opt-In to the GatorEvals Midterm

Each term you teach at UF, you will receive an email after approximately 30% of the course has been completed to "Opt-In" your course to receive a midterm evaluation. Students can provide feedback midway through the course to give you time to adjust and make changes to your course. The day after the midterm evaluation period ends, you will receive a report that aggregates the student responses. The results are not part of the promotion and tenure process, or available for public results. For more information, please visit [midterm evaluation](#).

Book Club

We invite University of Florida faculty to join a cross-institutional book club with colleagues from Flagler College as we explore "A Pedagogy of Kindness" by Catherine J. Denial. This thought-provoking book offers a transformative vision for teaching that emphasizes justice, empathy, and belonging in the classroom. Join virtually on Fridays at 11:00 am-12:00 pm on March 7, April 2, and May 2 to share your perspectives and ideas with colleagues from UF and Flagler College! Register here.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Upcoming AI Squared Center workshops

March 4, 1-2:30pm – Co-Authoring Course Materials with AI, Ryan Rushing and Cooper Greenfield - HYBRID

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/DtWxMdu99e>

Students need high-quality course materials. Commercial publishers can be expensive while creating course materials yourself can be too time consuming. In this workshop, Ryan Rushing, Textbook Affordability Coordinator of the Center for Teaching Excellence, and Cooper Greenfield, Education and Training Specialist of the Center for Instructional Technology and Training will help educators leverage artificial intelligence in the creation of course materials. We will explore the use of NaviGator as a tool for producing affordable and free content for your students to maximize learning success.

March 5, 1:30pm -3:00pm - AI Chatbots, Margeaux Johnson, Chris Sharp, Brian Schilling – IN-PERSON

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/hKmmj4KWyd>

This interactive workshop will delve deeper into the creation of chatbots for teaching and learning. Participants will recognize the potential of AI chatbots as a partner for student learning, generate ideas for how to integrate AI chatbots in their own courses and learning environments, and then create a simple chatbot using presets in NaviGator Chat.

March 6, 1:30 – 3:00 – AI & Accessibility, Laura Jervis, Ariel Gunn, Stephanie Richardson, Margeaux Johnson – IN-PERSON

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/2FxaegPjwg>

Join us for a hands-on workshop exploring the exciting role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing digital accessibility for students with disabilities in your courses. While AI has many applications, its potential to aid with digital accessibility is often overlooked. In this session, participants will gain an understanding of the basics of digital accessibility, including creating accessible course materials, using accessible multimedia, and implementing inclusive assessment practices. By learning how to effectively prompt AI to augment their accessibility efforts, educators will be empowered to create more inclusive learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of their students, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience.



Inspire, Ignite, and Innovate with CTE!

We are always looking for fresh voices to lead workshops, share a passion for teaching in our podcast, and engage with audiences at our Interface Teaching Conference. CTE is dedicated to honoring exceptional teaching. If you or someone you know would like to partner with or should be recognized by CTE [please email us](#).

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