Weekly Happenings
Newsletter

SUMMER 2021
August 9-20, 2021

PITT
CIRTL

Fall Course

Preparation for the STEM Classroom: An Introduction to Evidence-Based STEM Teaching

Designed for PhD students and Postdocs planning for academic careers in the STEM disciplines, this course provides an introduction to the alignment model, evidence-based teaching practices, and the basics of teaching-as-research (TAR) project design. Interested faculty are also welcome to join.

Graduate and professional students, postdocs, and faculty can participate in this course by either registering for graduate credit using one of the courses listed below, or by auditing the course (not taken for graduate credit) using the link below.

Cross-Listed as:
- ENGR 3001-1160 (CRN #21925)
- BIOSC 3001-1160 (CRN #22972)
- CHEM 3001-1095 (CRN #24063)

Audit (Not for Credit) Registration
Complete this form to participate without credit or if you also plan to register for graduate credit:
https://forms.gle/76GTvuK9ecRmh2T48

Class Times:
Class meets Tuesdays, 4:00 – 4:50 PM in Benedum 320, and begins Aug 31st.

* Satisfies the course requirement to earn Pitt-CIRTL Associate Certification in STEM Teaching (1st level).
Registration for fall programming is now open! Courses and workshops have limited capacity and require advance registration; MOOCs and events have no cap but participants are still required to register to get access to online materials (for MOOCs) and sessions (for events).

Check [https://www.cirtl.net/](https://www.cirtl.net/) for updates.

## Online Courses

**The College Classroom**  
Wednesday, 2:00-3:30PM ET September 29 – December 15, 2021  
Get an introduction to key learning principles and the basics of effective, evidence-based teaching practices in this course about teaching in the college classroom. This course will focus on developing inclusive, learner-centered approaches to teaching. Students will explore the interconnectedness of learning objectives, assessment, and learning activities through both discussion of course materials and developing and practicing their own lesson plan. In this course, you will:

- Explore inclusive, learner-centered teaching theories and practices  
- Read and discuss literature on effective teaching and learning, and apply to your teaching practice  
- Create connections between learning objectives, assessments, and learning activities in order to build and teach a lesson plan  
- Reflect on personal teaching values and decision making

## Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

CIRTL MOOCs take place on the EdX platform and use video-based modules, discussion boards, and peer-reviewed assignments to teach participants about different aspects of evidence-based STEM teaching over the course of 8 weeks. Registration is required; there is no cost to participate and no enrollment cap. For more information, visit the [CIRTL MOOC website](https://www.cirtl.net/).

**An Introduction to Evidence-Based Undergraduate STEM Teaching MOOC (Registration TBD)**  
Asynchronous Course September 27-November 21, 2021  
The course draws on the expertise of a variety of STEM faculty, educational researchers, and staff from university teaching centers, many of them affiliated with the CIRTL Network. Topics include key learning principles, such as the role of mental models in learning and the importance of practice and feedback; fundamental elements of course design, including the development of learning objectives and assessments of learning aligned with those objectives; and teaching strategies for fostering active learning and inclusive classroom environments. Formats include video content and transcripts, readings, discussion forums, quizzes, and peer-graded assignments where participants will plan teaching and learning activities relevant to their disciplines.
Network Workshop Series

**Writing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement (2 day workshop)**
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Tuesdays, September 9 and September 23, 2021
Draft a peer-reviewed statement that reflects your teaching beliefs and experiences in this interactive, two-part online workshop. Participants will work to draft and edit a teaching statement, which is often required for US academic job applications. We will discuss elements of teaching statements, evidence of effective teaching tailored for different academic jobs, and strategies to get started or polish existing teaching statements. Participants from all disciplines will become better equipped and prepared to communicate their teaching practice through this workshop's collaborative, peer-review process.

**Workshop Series: Exploring Careers in Teaching at a Community College**
Learn about teaching at community colleges straight from current staff & faculty! In this three-part series, we'll hear faculty & staff reflect on the joys and challenges of teaching at a community college, the broad diversity of students in their courses and how that diversity enhances learning, and the ins and outs of finding a full-time teaching position at a community college. The panelists will take questions from future faculty throughout the presentation.

*Introduction to Teaching at a Community College*
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, October 5, 2021
Have you ever considered a teaching career at a community college? This career can have a high impact on students beginning their higher education journey and often includes a strong community focused work environment. The panel of faculty will discuss their experiences working in community colleges. The discussion will include equity and diversity at community colleges, panelists career trajectories, what they appreciate most about working at community colleges, and common misconceptions about the career. Bring your questions and prepare to explore this wonderful career path.

*Getting Hired at a Community College: Tips and Strategies from Faculty on Hiring Panels*
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, November 2, 2021
Learn hiring tips from faculty that serve on or work closely with hiring committees at community colleges. How might the interview differ from that of a 4-year teaching or research university? What factors should you consider in preparing your application materials and teaching demonstration? What are some common do's and don'ts of seeking a job at a community college? Join us to learn the answer to these questions and more.

*Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Teaching in the Community College Setting*
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Community colleges are truly diverse settings, attracting individuals from all different walks of life with a common interest in advancing their education. If you are interested in exploring a career at a community college, then understanding the diversity of their student populations is crucial. This panel consisting of faculty and administrators from various community colleges will share insights on student diversity. We will also explore the types of inclusive teaching strategies that best support community college students and help to create more equitable classrooms.
**Teaching Citational Practice: A Critical Feminist Approach** (2 day workshop)
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Wednesdays, October 13 and October 27, 2021

What effects do citational practices have on students’ understanding of who does and doesn’t belong in our field? What is the impact of the ‘stories’ we tell our students through our syllabi, footnotes, and bibliographies? How can we transform our own citational practice in order to empower the most vulnerable or excluded voices in our fields? In this two-part workshop, we will explore how, as educators, we can meaningfully legitimize overlooked or non-traditional sources of scholarship while breaking down biased norms of who belongs in labs, at the front of the lecture hall, and in our syllabi. In our first session, we will introduce critical feminist pedagogy as a framework for assessing the political and ethical implications of academic citation, both generally speaking and in your home departments and disciplines. In our second session, you will develop and workshop a pedagogical resource for enacting a critical-feminist approach to citational practice in your own classrooms and learning materials. If you are interested, at the end of the workshop you’ll be able to contribute your newly-designed resource to a STEM-focused issue of the Open Educational Resource (OER) Teaching Citational Practice: Critical Feminist Approaches, hosted by Columbia University Libraries.

**Network Workshops**

**Research, Teaching, and Mentoring at MSI/HBCUs**
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Thursday, October 7, 2021

Hear faculty from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) share their perspectives on being faculty at different types of institutions that serve diverse student populations. Each faculty panelist is associated with a partner institution as part of the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Awards (IRACDA) Program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Faculty names and affiliated institutions will be added as they are identified.

**Bring An Inclusive Mindset to Your Teaching**
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday, October 8, 2021

Learn about inclusive teaching approaches that build upon inclusive design frameworks, case studies, and educational research in this one-session workshop. As an introduction to inclusive teaching techniques, Professors Kelly Hogan and Viji Sathy of the University of North Carolina will ask participants to reflect on inequities and diversity in their classrooms through interactive activities. After providing a framework for inclusive design and their own research results, Hogan and Sathy will lead participants through active learning exercises and case studies that explore inclusive techniques. Drawing upon their own teaching experiences and educational research, they will model and discuss approaches that can be readily implemented with any discipline or class size to help all students achieve to their potentials.

**LinkedIn for Academics**
12:00 – 1:30 PM, Tuesday, October 12, 2021

You have a LinkedIn account and the basics set up; now what? Wait for people to find you? No. “Networking” is an active process that takes time and planning. After attending this workshop, you will understand: 1) Why LinkedIn is used for the recruitment and vetting of candidates 2) The importance of skills and keywords and how they are essential to your LinkedIn profile 3) How to reach out to an individual on LinkedIn 4) Begin to appreciate the many ways to use LinkedIn for networking and job-seeking 5) How faculty/academia can use LinkedIn for network.

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Check [https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/](https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/) for updates.

**Canvas Refresher: Building Your Course**
*10:00 - 11:00 AM, Tuesday, August 10, 2021*
Used Canvas before but want to brush up? This one-hour workshop will refresh your memory of the steps of setting up your course, adding course content, and creating assignments for your students.

**Canvas for Administrative Support Staff**
*10:00 - 11:00 AM, Thursday, August 12, 2021*
This webinar will introduce Canvas to those who provide administrative support to Pitt faculty. We will focus on both how Canvas works together with PeopleSoft and other information systems at Pitt, as well as how to perform the most common course and content management functions in Canvas. No previous experience with Canvas is required.

**Deliver and Grade Assignments with Gradescope**
*11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Wednesday, August 18, 2021*
Gradescope is a feedback and assessment tool that dramatically reduces the drudgery associated with grading paper-based assignments. It enables instructors and graders to give better and more timely feedback, resulting in improved learning outcomes. Dynamic rubrics help streamline the tedious parts of grading while increasing grading consistency. AI-assisted Grading allows instructors to automatically group similar answers and grade all the answers in each group at once. Gradescope also helps with grading programming assignments at scale and can automatically grade printed bubble sheets.

**Provost’s Fall Workshop Series on Student Success: Session One**
*11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Wednesday, August 18, 2021*
The University Center for Teaching and Learning in collaboration with the Office of the Provost presents a series of virtual workshops on Student Success for the fall 2021 term. We know Pitt faculty are committed to the welfare and success of your students. Sometimes, putting these ideas into practice can be challenging and complex. Given the demographics of our students are changing at Pitt, we aim to provide practical tools to increase the efficiency of your daily work in your interactions with students. Join us in conversations to support all students as we return to campus this fall.

**Using Digital Accessibility Tools**
*1:00 - 2:00 PM, Thursday, August 19, 2021*
Whether you teach an in-person or online course, any course content you offer digitally must be accessible to students with disabilities. This workshop explains what accessibility looks like in the context of Canvas and other methods of digital content delivery, why accessibility is important, and how accessible design can help all students, not just those with disabilities.
What's New in Canvas?
11:00 - 11:30 AM, Friday, August 20, 2021
This 30-minute webinar will highlight new features and changes that have taken place in Canvas since the end of the spring term, as well as how to get more information and how-to instructions for new tools.

Introduction to Canvas Part 1: Getting Started
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Monday, August 23, 2021
Welcome to Canvas, Pitt's new learning management system! This introductory training focuses primarily on the global functions of Canvas (the Course Dashboard, Calendar, and Inbox) as well as course settings and course user management. This webinar is for instructors and staff who are completely new to Canvas.

Introduction to Canvas Part 2: Adding, Organizing and Sharing Content
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Tuesday, August 24, 2021
How can Canvas, Pitt's new learning management system, help out to organize and present your course content? This training will introduce how the Pages, Modules, and Files features work together to give you a flexible, dynamic home for your course online.

Introduction to Canvas Part 3: Assignments, Quizzes, and Grading
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Wednesday, August 25, 2021
How can Canvas, Pitt's new learning management system, help you assess your students both online and off? This training will cover creating assignments, tests, and quizzes in Canvas, use the SpeedGrader tool to read, comment on and grade student work, and use the online gradebook.

Center for
Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Development

Leading People In Organizations Micro-Credential
Application deadline: September 7, 2021
Classes begin Tuesday, September 7, 2021.
This professional credential consists of four Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses. Gain the knowledge and skills that are needed to thrive in any career, as well as the verification that you’ve earned them.

Cultivating a portfolio of professional skills during your postdoctoral training will provide you with a significant competitive advantage over your peers when you are ready to enter the job market, regardless of your career goals.

Micro-credentials are cost-effective, mini-qualifications that offer immediate value!
This professional credential will introduce emerging scientists and scholars to the essential managerial and communication skills valued and sought after by employers across all sectors of the workforce. The certification of the completion of this professional credential is provided by University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business (KGSB).

If you have any questions, email OACDGradCourses@pitt.edu or call (412) 648-8486 to speak with an advisor.
Check [https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/) for updates.

**Additional Resources:**

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