# Weekly Happenings Newsletter

Quote of the week:

"Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty."

— Albert Einstein

FALL 2021

August 23-27, 2021

## 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).

# The CIRTL Network

CENTER FOR THE INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH, TEACHING, & LEARNING

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/ for updates.

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## Online Courses

### The College Classroom

Wednesdays, 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

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## 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.

### 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.

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## 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.
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> ***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.
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> ***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.

Discipline-Based dB-SERC Science Education Research Center

Check http://dbserc.pitt.edu/ for updates.

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University Center for
# Teaching and Learning

Check https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/ for updates.

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.

Trauma-Aware Pedagogy
*12:00 - 1:30 PM, Wednesday, August 25, 2021*
The challenges instructors and students face pursuing their academic and professional goals are well known among educators. While the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the prevalence of economic and racial disparities, mental health issues, isolation, and competing priorities, these concerns have always existed within higher education. Trauma symptoms are inevitable in our classroom when students experience personal and professional crises, regardless of the continuing effects of the pandemic. Research stemming from the science of emotions highlights the effects of trauma (past or on-going) on our cognitive capacities, and how instructors can create caring environments through the implementation of activities identifying trauma symptoms, and classroom practices that enhance connection, belonging, transparency, flexibility, and empowerment among our students.

Canvas Refresher: Building Your Course
*1:00 - 2:00 PM, Wednesday, September 1, 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.

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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.

University of Pittsburgh Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Check https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/ for updates.

| Additional Resources: |
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| Pitt-CIRTL website: www.cirtl.pitt.edu |
| CIRTL website: http://www.cirtl.net/ |
| dB-SERC website: http://www.dbserc.pitt.edu/ |
| UCTL website: www.teaching.pitt.edu |
| OACD website: www.oacd.health.pitt.edu |
| OACD Video Library: https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/video-library |
| AME website: www.ame.pitt.edu |
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