Weekly Happenings Newsletter

FALL 2022

Last Chance to Join 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 #20564)
- BIOSC 3001-1160 (CRN #21452)
- CHEM 3001-1095 (CRN #22384)

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/RHVbjqvqM5tW5sR59

Class Times:
Class meets Tuesdays, 4:00 – 4:50 PM and begins Aug 30th.

* 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

Fall Registration Opens Soon!

Check https://www.cirtl.net/ for updates.

FALL COURSES

**MOOC: An Introduction to Evidence-Based Undergraduate STEM Teaching**

*Registration Opens August 31, 2022*

*Asynchronous Course: September 26 – November 20, 2022*

An Introduction to Evidence-Based Undergraduate STEM Teaching is a massive open, online course (MOOC) designed to provide graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and other aspiring faculty in STEM disciplines with an overview of effective college teaching strategies and the research that supports them. This course is also suitable for other interested university staff, faculty, and administrators. The goal of the eight-week course is to equip the next generation of faculty to be effective teachers, thus improving the learning experience for the thousands of students they will teach. Past participants are overwhelmingly satisfied with the course (nearly 90% of Summer 2019 students were satisfied or extremely satisfied).

**Postdoc Teaching Practicum**

*Registration Opens August 15, 2022*

*Synchronous Sessions: 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET, Thursdays, September 15, October 6, October 27, November 17, and December 8, 2022*

Work with an experienced instructor in your discipline to enhance your understanding and experience of teaching a university course in this semester-long mentorship program designed for postdoctoral fellows. In this practicum, postdocs will observe mentors in their teaching, teach guest lectures and receive feedback on your teaching, discuss approaches to teaching with your mentors, and engage in group discussions of teaching with other postdocs from your cohort. The cohort will meet every three weeks for 2-hour workshops around key topics in teaching development; this may include lesson planning, teaching portfolios, equity, diversity, & inclusion, and teaching-as-research.

FALL WORKSHOP SERIES

**Finding Your Teaching Mentor**

*Registration Opens August 15, 2022*

*Synchronous Sessions: 12:30 – 2:00 PM ET, Tuesdays, October 25 and November 1, 2022*

In this two-part workshop, participants will start making a teaching development plan. Their plans will take into account their current context as well as align with their personal and professional goals. In session one, participants will learn how to orient themselves in their teaching development pathway and make an inventory of their local teaching resources. They will also develop understanding about why future faculty need a teaching mentor network that includes people different from their research mentors. The second session will help participants make a plan for building their mentoring network around their teaching development goals. We will talk about defining success as a teacher and how to ask for mentorship. We will hear from graduate student and faculty panelists about their teaching mentorship highlights and challenges. We will end our workshop series with time to form peer mentor networks.
**Exploring Careers in Teaching at a Community College**
Registration Opens August 15, 2022
Three Synchronous Sessions: 1:00 – 2:30 PM, Thursdays
October 27, 2022 Introduction to Teaching at a Community College
November 10, 2022 Getting Hired at a Community College: Tips and Strategies from Faculty on Hiring Panels
December 1, 2022 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Teaching in the Community College Setting
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.

**Getting Started with Universal Design for Learning**
Registration Opens August 15, 2022
Synchronous Sessions: 1:00 – 2:20 PM ET, Wednesdays, November 2 and November 9, 2022
We know the one-size-fits-all approach to learning design is not optimal. But how do we incorporate flexibility into teaching and learning while still maintaining rigorous learning? In this workshop, participants will learn the three principles that underpin Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a pedagogical framework backed by neuroscience that fosters motivated, resourceful, and strategic learners. They will have the opportunity to apply these principles to a teaching artifact of their choice, be it a syllabus, assignment, and/or teaching practice. Participants will come away with an expanded understanding of learner variability, how it can be leveraged as an asset in the classroom, and how to make learning more accessible for their students. No previous experience with UDL is necessary.


**dB-SERC Lunch Discussion**
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, September 6, 2022
During this lunch discussion, Joe Redish from the University of Maryland will discuss issues related the challenge of cross-disciplinary STEM instruction and communication. Modern scientific fields often require strengths in multiple scientific disciplines. Cross-disciplinary instruction is common in STEM programs in universities. And there is pressure both at the college and pre-college levels to increase the interdisciplinarity of science instruction. But cross-disciplinary communication and cross-disciplinary instruction can be harder than it looks. Scientific disciplines create distinct cultures – conventions, goals, expectations, and epistemologies – that can lead to serious challenges for an instructor trying to communicate across disciplines.1 Over the past decade, I have been involved in a project creating an introductory university physics class for life-science students.2 From this experience, I learned much about cross-disciplinary communication that surprised me. In this talk, I use my experience as a case study to develop some insights and suggestions about cross-disciplinary instruction.
Check [https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/](https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/) for updates.

**How to Use Classroom Audiovisual Technology**

2:00 - 3:00 PM, Tuesday, September 6, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Thursday, September 8, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Tuesday, September 13, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Thursday, September 15, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Tuesday, September 20, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Thursday, September 22, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Tuesday, September 27, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Thursday, September 29, 2022

*IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND IN-PERSON: There is a maximum in-person capacity of SIX (6) attendees.*

The University of Pittsburgh's classrooms are equipped with audiovisual technology to facilitate inclusive and active learning environments. This workshop will teach you how to operate and connect your device to a classroom's audiovisual technology system.

**Better Grading and Feedback with Gradescope**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Gradescope can help you organize and grade hand-written assignments, or other "respond in the given space" type questions by either scanning paper submissions or accepting them directly from students. With Gradescope, you build a rubric while you grade for consistent grading and easy regrading.

**Peerceptiv: Peer Learning Tool**

12:00 - 1:00 PM, Wednesday, September 7, 2022

The webinar will cover an overview of Peerceptiv, explain how peer review and peer evaluation assignments work, show you how to integrate the tool with Canvas, and give you the information you need to set up an assignment in your course.

**Encouraging Student Participation**

2:00 - 3:30 PM, Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Fostering effective class participation requires planning. Instructors can implement specific strategies to encourage meaningful, distributed participation through various modalities. These strategies can address in-class participation issues, such as lack of participation or over-participation.

**Introduction to Specifications Grading (Humanities and Social Sciences)**

1:00 - 2:30 PM, Friday, September 9, 2022

Specs grading is a highly flexible grading schema that allows instructors to set high-but-achievable goals for students, saves time on grading, and motivates students. Instructors in STEM disciplines have succeeded with specs grading. Still, fewer humanities and social science instructors have tried it because it can be challenging to use pass/fail criteria to evaluate assessments like essays and projects. We will address some of those challenges and explore methods of implementing specs grading on a small or large scale in your course.
Check [https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/) or [https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion](https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion) for updates.

**Diversity and Inclusion in the Profession: Past, Present, and the Future**

5:30 - 7:00 PM, Thursday, September 15, 2022

Eckert Seamens 600 Grant Street, US Steel Building 44th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Panelists will explore the importance of promoting and increasing racial diversity and inclusion in the Profession. In addition, the panel will offer ways in which Black and African American attorneys may overcome the barriers that limit their growth and their full participation in the practice of law.

Speakers: Justice Cynthia Ackron Baldwin, Martha Richards Conley (JD '71), Derek Illar-Antonucci (JD '09), Aubrey Jones (JD '07), Tony Thompson (JD '06)

See [https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series](https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series) for more info.

**How to Build a Meaningful Career after Your PhD or Postdoc: Information Session with Beyond the Professoriate for Pitt Trainees**

12:30 - 1:00 PM, Tuesday, September 13, 2022

How can PhDs build meaningful and impactful careers after their degree or postdoc? Now more than ever, PhDs work in a variety of career fields, leveraging their education and training wherever smart people are needed. But how exactly do Phds successfully job search? What are the proven strategies you can apply to successfully build your career?

As a student or postdoc at the University of Pittsburgh, you have access to the PhD Career Training Platform, a one-of-a-kind resource where you can explore career options and learn how to job search in academia and beyond. Through self-paced courses and live webinars in the Training Platform, you’ll learn how to launch a successful job search.
See https://www.hsls.pitt.edu/calendar for more information.

**Evaluating Journals: Discovering Where to Publish**
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Wednesday, September 7, 2022
Deciding which journal to submit your manuscript can be a daunting task. This class will cover some of the resources and tools used in the selection process, as well as important criteria to consider when evaluating the quality of a journal. Topics will include the different publishing models (subscription and open access), copyright and licensing, peer review, and funder policies that may affect journal selection. Students, faculty, and staff are all welcome to attend.

**Introduction to Research Data Management**
1:00 – 2:00 PM, Thursday, September 8, 2022
Learn the fundamentals of keeping your data secure and organized through brief introductions to the core areas of data management: file storage and organization, file documentation, data preservation, and data publication and/or data sharing.

### Additional Resources:

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