Weekly Happenings Newsletter

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 Registration Is Open!
https://www.cirtl.net/ for updates.

Quote of the week:
“No matter how hard the past is, you can always begin again.”
-Buddha
FALL WORKSHOP SERIES

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, Monday, September 12, 2022
During this dB-SERC lunch discussion, Ly Malespina from the Physics Department will give her talk titled “Gender Equity and Motivation in Introductory Physics Classrooms”. In this talk, she will discuss how test anxiety, intelligence mindsets, and peer influence on self-efficacy can influence gender equity in introductory physics classes.
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 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.

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

1:00 - 2:30 PM, Monday, September 12, 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.

**Teaching With and Without PowerPoint**

1:00 - 2:00 PM, Monday, September 12, 2022

When effectively planned and designed appropriately, PowerPoint can enhance the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning. In this workshop, we will cover best practices for designing slides for instruction that encourage student engagement with course material.

**Ungrading and Alternative Grading Overview**

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

Grading strategies like ungrading serves as an alternative to standard grading practices. It provides students more ownership of their learning process by facilitating student reflection and self-assessment instead of some or all instructor grading. We will present brief, introductory overviews of several forms of alternative assessment and describe how they can be scaled.
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)

**Emerging Latino Communities Group Meeting**
10:30 - 11:30 AM, Friday, September 16, 2022
School of Public Health, Room 1154
Sponsored by the Center for Health Equity (CHE) and the Center for Latin American Studies, the Emerging Latino Communities Group explores problems faced by small yet rapidly growing Latino populations and solutions to solve those problems. Networking time is available 30 minutes before and after the meeting time.

Dr. Sharon Ross, from the School of Education, will be discussing an article on Supporting Healthy Lifestyles in Emerging Latino Communities: Taverno Ross, S.E., Barone Gibbs, B., Documet, P.I. et al. ANDALE Pittsburgh: results of a promotora-led, home-based intervention to promote a healthy weight in Latino preschool children. BMC Public Health 18, 360 (2018).

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.
Preparing for the New NIH Data Management & Sharing Plan: Elements, Costs, and Tools  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Monday, September 12, 2022  
NIH has a new policy going into effect on January 25, 2023 that will require NIH-funded researchers to prospectively submit a plan outlining how scientific data from their research will be managed and shared. This session will cover the plan’s elements and allowable costs as well as tools to help with your own plan creation. Researchers may also wish to attend Introduction to Research Data Management for general best-practices information.

Using Critical Appraisal to Assess the Rigor of the Prior Research  
12:00 - 1:00 PM, Tuesday, September 13, 2022  
This session is part of series on Rigor & Reproducibility. When applying for grants, have you ever wondered how best to meet the NIH requirement to assess the rigor of the prior research in your field? Critical appraisal can help readers determine whether a study's results are valid, what the results are, and whether they are relevant to you. This class will cover the basics of critically appraising studies, including study design, methods, bias, and confounding. Join us for the follow up session entitled, “Critical Appraisal Journal Club, individual session” on September 28. You must register for each session separately.

Bulk RNA-seq data analysis using CLC Genomics Workbench  
1:00 - 4:00 PM, Wednesday, September 14, 2022  
This workshop teaches bulk RNA-Seq data analysis using CLC Genomics Workbench software. Upon registration, you will receive links to workshop materials (PowerPoint slides, lecture videos, and practice exercises) that you can view on your schedule. During the class, you will learn how to solve exercise problems.

Painless PubMed  
12:00 - 1:00 PM, Thursday, September 15, 2022  
This one hour workshop, highlighting the new version of PubMed, is designed to quickly introduce or update you about searching in the PubMed database. Offered bi-weekly, the topics include: building an effective search strategy, efficiently locating full text articles, and setting up your personal MyNCBI account. Need information for a grant application or a homework assignment? This painless one hour session offers a quick cure!
### Additional Resources:

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