Guided Inquiry

Motivating Students in Your Classroom

Guided Inquiry

(continued from previous page)

to classroom practices to improve student motivation and help us apply it to classroom practices to improve student motivation and engagement. You will leave this session with a better understanding of why students are motivated and take with you specific strategies to use in your courses.

Service-Learning as a Strategy for Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

Michele James-Deramo, Director, Service Learning

Thursday, November 8, 1:30-5:00

As you design for service learning, you can enrich your teaching and inspire scholarly work. Discover with Michele how service learning benefits students and teachers alike. Participants will receive a tote bag of resources for using service-learning in the classroom.

CEUT Consultations for Individuals and Groups

As questions arise about improving learning, consider inviting us in to explore those questions with you. We’re available to talk with you about the everyday issues that we all face as teachers. Contact Nancy (npolk@vt.edu), Monique (msdufour@vt.edu), or Terry (twiley@vt.edu) directly, or call CEUT, 231-6995.

CEUT Learning Enhancement Grants

We continue to offer our instructional grants program, comprised of grants ranging from small mini-grants to larger grants that support time and resources for planning, design, implementation, and assessment.

Deadline, Monday:
October 22, 2007 and March 10, 2008

For detailed information and complete application procedures, visit www.ceut.vt.edu

University Writing Program (UWVP)

Language and Learning in the Disciplines

What is the language of your discipline? How do people in your discipline use language to make meaning and share it with one another? How can we help students use this language to make and share meaning of their own?

UWVP can help you to develop significant educational experiences related to language and learning. Visit the UWVP section of www.ceut.vt.edu

The Edward Singleton Diggs Teaching Scholars 2007 Awards Roundtable

Thursday, October 25, 3:00-5:00

Motivating Students in Your Classroom

Wednesday, November 7, 3:00-5:00

Service-Learning as a Strategy for Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

Thursday, November 8, 3:00-5:00

Conversation:
Teaching With Our Mouths Shut

Wednesday, October 24, 3:00-5:00

In-Class, Informal Assessments of Learning:

Thursday, October 25, 3:00-5:00

Building Classroom Environments for Learning and Engagement

Wednesday, October 30, 3:00-5:00

Grading: Fair, Appropriate, and Defensible

Thursday, November 15, 3:00-5:00

Building Appropriate and Productive Relationships with Students

Wednesday, November 21, 3:00-5:00

The word “community” is one of those words invoked so often that it may seem frayed and shopworn. Such words, however omnipresent in our vocabulary, often fade into the banality caused by overuse, and deteriorate into the inevitable meaningless that will occur when language and reality divide.

Community does not exist because it is invoked. It exists because we create and sustain it together.

As we gather our strength and begin, again, we place our hope not in a long list of events, not in the barrage of activity that might somehow signal that, indeed, things are getting done and that we are okay. Rather, we place our hope in one another.

We thank all the people, campus-wide, who are making a difference for learning, and stand with you in renewed commitment to our work, with all its challenges and pleasures.

Join us. Let’s see what we can do together.

Michele James-Deramo
Director, CEUT

Terry Wildman
Director, CEUT

Nancy Polk
Assistant Director, CEUT

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Learning Together (continued from previous page)

XCaliber Awards Reception and 10 Year Celebration
Thursday, September 13, 3:00-5:00, Torgersen 1100
CEUT joins with the Center for Innovation in Learning and Technology (CILT) to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the XCaliber awards. Established in 1996, this awards program recognizes individuals and groups for their commitment to incorporating educational technologies that enhance the learning environment using technology. Participants will share a meal and discuss their experiences in recognition of ten years of XCaliber.

Five Minds for the Future- a faculty reading group
Get a better handle on your Architectural Design mammal.

Dates and Times TBD
This group will read and discuss Howard Gardner’s new book Five Minds for the Future (2007). "What are the most significant teaching opportunities in our emerging work? How might people learn them in both formal and informal educational contexts? Participants will receive a copy of the book and will enjoy lively conversation. Interested participants should write to Gene Egger at ceut@vt.edu.

Establishing a Learning Community in Your Classroom: A Workshop

Barbara Bekken, Assistant Professor, Sociology

Eight Sessions/Dates and Times TBD
Participation in this multi-session workshop provides an opportunity for faculty to design a learning community that fosters student learning. Choose a course that you are scheduled to teach in Spring 2007, or describe an existing course that is designed to foster a learning community. Along the way, you will learn how learning communities can be adapted to fit your subject matter and industrial courses, and discover the variety of strategies that support learning communities. You will learn student learning, culminating in a final proposal that evaluates learning in the community. Meeting and times will be based on the availability of participants. If you are interested in registering, or if you have any questions, please contact Barbara directly at bekken@vt.edu or 231-4466 no later than Friday, September 28.

Building Classroom Environments for Learning and Engagement
Margaret Hable, CEUT Consultant

Friday, October 12, 2:00-4:00
Students who engage fully in the instructional activities of a course are more motivated to learn, learn content deeply, and learn things that have an impact on their community of learners that is both satisfying and growth-oriented. One way to promote these experiences is to establish a learning environment that is flexible, inclusive, diverse, and fun. Participants will explore what an ideal learning environment will look like and how this can be explored in their classrooms.

In-Class, Informal Assessments of Learning: Finding out if they’re “with” you!
Margaret Hable, CEUT Consultant

Thursday, October 4, 2:00-4:00
Do you ever wonder at the close of a class session, “Are they learning the material I am teaching?” “Are they with me?” This workshop will explore strategies you can use to find out! Learn a variety of practical classroom assessment techniques (CATs) that enable classroom teachers to get feedback about what students are learning and levels of understanding. CATs are quick and easy: they can be used at the beginning, middle, or end of class. Sample strategies will be detailed and illustrated and include Exit Slips, Entry Slips, Minute Papers, Muddiest Point, Focused Listing, Background Knowledge, Probes, and more.

Grading: Fair, Appropriate, and Defensible Practices
Peter Dostalek, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology

Thursday, October 18, 2:00-4:00
We all give grades, yet we may not have had the opportunity to learn strategies that lead to valid and reliable grading methods. In this workshop, we will introduce important concepts and practical implications, including criterion and norm referenced grading, grading curves and distribution, rubric use, and others. We will also consider scantrons, points and percentage grading schemes, extra credit, options such as pass/fail and grades and grading plans that work. This will be a practical approach to grading, focused on solutions.

Learning Together
Faculty Study Group Program
Monique Dufour, CEUT/UWP modufour@vt.edu, 231-2734

What are Faculty Study Groups?
Faculty Study Groups (FSG) pursue collective, meaningful inquiry into specific issues and questions about teaching and learning. Each FSG develops its own topic of inquiry and devotes an academic year to its study. FSgs are open to all faculty on campus, are cross-disciplinary and committed to understanding, through meaningful collective inquiry, the FSG program seeks to foster a collegial environment that values pedagogical explorations and collegiality, and promotes learning together.

How are Faculty Study Groups formed?
All Faculty Study Groups are collectively established FSgs that wish to continue their inquiry and proposal process. The proposal process is designed to help the faculty on campus to form and to help CEUT to support deep engage- ment and significant impact on teaching and learning.

The deadline for all proposals is Friday, September 28.

How does CEUT support FSgs?
Support for the faculty inquiry is available from CEUT. At the end of Fall semester, each FSG reflects on its inquiry, refines its questions, and expresses its developing understanding in writing, collectively authored, and submitted to CEUT. CEUT also encourages each group to plan for the dissemination of its work to broader faculty communities, and is happy to help FSGs to envision productive avenues for that dissemination. In addition, CEUT offers each active FSG member a professional development fund of $400. The funds can be used individually or collectively, and will be transferred in January, 2008.

Groups Forming Now!
There are a number of ways to identify topics of inquiry and locate interested colleagues with whom you can refine your plans and articulate them in the form of a proposal.

Have a question for FSG topic inquiry, but looking for members?
Contact Monique with your idea, and we will post it on the CEUT website for pro- spective members to review.

Looking for a topic for FSG topic inquiry, but looking for members?
Browse www.ceut.vt.edu, where you will find announcements from colleagues about topics under consideration for group study, or post your own inquiry. You can also browse the list of FSGs from previous years for an idea of others’ work. Already have sufficient prospective group members and a topic of inquiry?
Visit www.ceut.vt.edu for details about the proposal process.

Proposal Deadline: Friday, September 28
Complete details about the Faculty Study Group proposal guidelines, including current and prospective group topics, are located on the CEUT website at www.ceut.vt.edu. Please visit the site to learn more about the proposal process.

This discussion is not about any chance question, but about the way that one should live.” —The Republic

About CEUT: Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
A Publication of CEUT: Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
An online guide to sharing experiences and learning from one another about the real issues that we face together as teachers.