

The Joy Shechtman Mankoff
Center for Teaching & Learning presents ...

Talking Teaching

Spring 2024



PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS!

Talking Teaching is a series of informal discussions of teaching-related topics—typically suggested by our colleagues. Talking Teaching provides an opportunity to build community and to stop & reflect on our teaching and on our students' learning experiences. Topics are listed below, with dates & times and preliminary descriptions.

For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring their thoughts or questions to spark the collective exchange of ideas. ***We are still seeking additional discussants for these events.*** Interest in the topic, not extended preparation, is the only requirement to be a discussant.

Please contact Maria Rosa, Ariella Rotramel or Cheryl Banker if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant.

We hope to see you at these events!

Preparing for Your Spring Teaching

Wednesday 17 January 2024

10 AM to 11:30 AM, 11:30 to 12:30 PM Lunch, 12:30 PM to 2 PM

Pre-semester CTL Talking Teaching & Curricular Technology Collaboration
Workshops & Discussions

Wondering about how to address AI in your courses? Do you want feedback or a fresh pair of eyes on your syllabus or a course assignment? Whether this is your 2nd or 20th semester teaching, our courses are constantly evolving. In this half-day workshop co-sponsored by CTL and RS&CT, we will offer your choice of four sessions (two morning, two afternoon) to aid course development. Lunch will be provided.

Morning Sessions (10 AM to 11:30 AM)

The Role of AI in Your Course: Wondering about how to address AI in your courses? Join us for an engaging workshop where we delve into diverse strategies for addressing AI in the classroom. Discover various approaches to communicate the nuances of AI to your students. Hear firsthand experiences from faculty members who have successfully integrated AI into their courses. Finally, we will explore a range of popular AI tools used by both faculty and students.

CTL Syllabus Workshop: Get feedback on your syllabus, and see examples from other colleagues across disciplines. Join in for a brief discussion of effective practices, as well as structuring deadlines around major campus events and busy times.

Afternoon Sessions (12:30 PM to 2 PM)

Making the Most out of Moodle: After refreshing your syllabus, join us to learn about high-impact Moodle practices and get hands-on assistance with constructing your Moodle sites.

Designing Effective Assignments: Introduction, or refresher, on backwards design for assignments. We will also share resources on universal design and best practices for class assignments.

Welcome Back & Building Bridges

Talking Teaching Community Building*

Tuesday 23 January 2024, 11:50 AM to 2 PM. Lunch at 11:45 AM in Hood

Building from September's popular event, please join faculty and staff colleagues from across campus for lunch and a facilitated, community building event. Make or renew collegial connections together in a fun, low-stakes manner.

Course Feedback Form Legislation

A Talking Teaching Too*

Tuesday 27 February 2024 11:50 AM to 1:30 PM in Ernst (new location--was rescheduled), Lunch at 11:45 AM.

Course feedback forms (CFFs) are well-known as a troublesome tool and yet we can't seem to find more effective alternatives. Between issues of bias, to a confused set of aims, there is a clear need to identify better means of gaining insight into student experiences, assessing teaching, and supporting our own teaching development. This session brings together faculty and staff colleagues along with students to discuss FSCC's work on this issue, as well as proposed changes to our College's approach to assessing teaching and student experiences in our courses.

Co-sponsored by FSCC.

Discussants will include members of FSCC and SGA.

Midterm Feedback Form Design & Discussion

A Talking Teaching Discussion & Workshop*

Thursday 29 February 2024 11:50 AM to 1:30 PM in Hood
Lunch at 11:45 AM.

Mid-term feedback provides an opportunity for you to not only assess how your class is going, but also for your students to self-reflect on their own work and learning. Gathering student feedback also helps students feel heard, and can empower them to take more responsibility for their own learning. In this workshop, we will discuss the pros and cons of gathering mid-semester feedback, discuss the different approaches that gathering feedback can take, share examples of a wide-variety of forms, as well as discuss how they are used by different Conn faculty.

What is “Good” Advising?

A Talking Teaching Too*

Thursday 4 April 2024 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Ernst, Breakfast at 8:15 AM.

Advising is a critical piece of student development, retention and eventual outcomes. How can we do it better? Advising across Conn takes on many iterations—First-year; Connections; Pre-Major & Major; Graduate school; Fellowships; Career Development;

Community Engagement; Study Abroad and more! Where does your advising expertise lie? When do you refer a student to other departments/areas? What do students want from advising? Join the conversation—pick up tips and pitfalls to avoid!

Discussants include James Amell '24, Calvin Bates '24, Chris Campbell, Marc Forster, Timothy Friend '25, David Kraske '24, Jennifer Lamb, Jillian Marshall, Aislinn McMahon '24, Melissa Ryan, Ann Schenk, Erika Smith, Luis Rodriguez Torres, and others.

Reacting to the Past & Playing to Learn

A Talking Teaching Workshop*

New Date: Monday 29 April 2024 11:50 AM to 1:30 PM.

Location: Cro's Nest, second floor, Crozier Williams Student Center

Lunch at 11:45 AM.

Reacting to the Past (<https://reacting.barnard.edu/>) provides educational games that seek to immerse students within particular moments in history around an array of topics that cross the disciplines. Come join our colleagues who have found these resources to be an important means of learning in their courses and will share their experiences. Additionally, we invite colleagues to share other approaches to learning that utilize games, role playing, and play that they have found to be successful (or not) in their classrooms. Before attending we encourage you to explore the available *Reacting to the Past* topics at <https://reactingconsortium.org/subject>.

Discussants include Ashley Hanson, Katie Kwong, and Karen Pezzetti.

Grading Breakfast Bonanza

Tuesday 14 May 2024 8:30 AM to 11 AM in the 1941 Room, in Crozier Williams Student Center, Breakfast at 8:15 AM.

A Talking Teaching Community Building*

It's that time of the year: **senior grades are due at 4 PM!** Research has shown that working in a group setting can increase productivity (By how much? We don't know; we only read the title because we were busy grading). Come join us in this community breakfast event, bring your materials to grade (for seniors or not), and spend some focused time working while enjoying a tasty meal and commiserating over whose idea it was to assign this much work. Feel free to drop by for all or part of this event.

***A note about Talking Teaching:**

In order to better define what participants should expect during our different Talking Teaching events, we designate each even according to its focus:

Workshop: These sessions draw upon colleagues' expertise and seek to engage participants in learning more about a topic in a more structured environment than typical Talking Teachings.

Discussion: These sessions invite participants to come together with a set of discussants who have a particular interest in a topic.

Community Building: These sessions focus on supporting our engagement with each other around a topic.

Curricular Development: These sessions focus on an aspect of our curriculum and bring together different voices to both share their experiences and thoughts and learn from each other.

Talking Teaching Too: These sessions include students and emphasize the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty & staff members.