

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

Talking Teaching

Fall 2022



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS
... IN PERSON!***

Teaching through Covid (Again)

Friday 16 September 2022

Noon to 1:30 PM, Lunch served at 11:45 AM in Hood (In-Person)

An email reminder will be sent (from "IS Hours & Events") 24 hours prior to the event.

As we embark upon our 5th semester of teaching during the pandemic, how are you handling COVID outbreaks on campus? Is your class masking or is masking optional? What does it mean to have several students absent, particularly during the first week(s) of classes, or to anticipate that throughout the semester there is a chance that at least one student may be missing at any time? That we, ourselves, may be absent for an extended period? These are challenging times for us to be teaching; together we will share (and brainstorm) creative solutions to absences, masking policies, deadlines, group work, and other pedagogical challenges.

Please join our colleagues, including representatives from FSCC and the Offices of the Dean of the Faculty and the Dean of the College, as well as members of the college-wide COVID Task Force and the Academic Continuity Working Group, for this important discussion.

Discussants include: Deb Eastman, Heidi Henderson, Chad Jones, Erika Smith, Sufia Uddin, and others.

****Please see current CTL Covid guidelines at the end of this document.***

Teaching & Advising Your First-Year Seminar: How Are Things Going?

A Discussion for Faculty Instructors and Staff Advisors

Thursday 6 October, 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Hood (In-Person)

Breakfast served at 8:15 AM

How is your First Year Seminar going this semester? What is working well and what has been challenging? Have the effects of the pandemic had an impact on our new students in the classroom?

This session, for FYS faculty instructors and staff advisors, as well as anyone else interested in first-year seminars, will provide the opportunity for those teaching and advising a FYS this semester (or next) to share their experiences and insights. We will discuss what this year's class is like; share teaching-related strategies; talk about the successes and challenges you are having as an advising team; and discuss anything else of interest related to our FYSs. During part of the session we will divide into two groups, allowing faculty and staff advisors to focus on issues particularly relevant to their roles.

Discussants include: Cheryl Banker, Kate Bengtson, Simon Feldman, Persephone Hall, Dulmarie Irizarry, Andrea Lanoux, Mariko Moher, Michelle Neely, Tina O'Keefe, and Sufia Uddin.

Approaches to Challenging & Supporting Our Students: A Conversation with Mulvey & King Teaching Award Winners

Tuesday, 1 November from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Hood (In-Person)

Breakfast served at 8:15 AM

What have our students—and colleagues—taught us over the years about effective teaching? Where can we, ourselves, find teaching inspiration and support? How can we ensure that our teaching is equitable and that we both challenge and support all of our students, helping them learn, grow, and thrive? In this conversation, faculty who have been recognized for their teaching through the Helen Mulvey or the John S. King Teaching Awards will help lead a discussion about the pleasures and pains of teaching, and what they've learned from their greatest teaching challenges, hacks, failures, and successes.

Discussants include Ginny Anderson, Anne Bernhard, Warren Johnson, Mónica López Anuarbe, Jillian Marshall, Joe Schroeder, Tanya Schneider, and Derek Turner.

Effectively Documenting Your Teaching for Improvement and Review

Tuesday 15 November, Noon to 1:30 PM in Hood (In-Person)

Lunch served at 11:50 AM

How can the act of documenting our teaching help to improve pedagogy? This session is intended to be an informal conversation, touching upon both how to effectively document your teaching throughout one's career (particularly at the beginning) and how one might improve pedagogy through the act of documentation itself. We will hear from colleagues with CAPT, CFC, and other relevant experiences regarding effective practices for documenting "evidence of teaching effectiveness" for tenure, promotion, awards, and other purposes.

Discussants include Christine Chung, Simon Feldman, Ron Flores, Marc Forster, Priya Kohli, Denise Pelletier, Marc Zimmer, and others.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Reflecting Upon Our Semester Teaching

Friday, 9 December from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Hood (In-Person)

Breakfast served at 8:15 AM

Whether we've taught a course for the first time or the tenth time, there is always much to be gained from critically reflecting upon our experience. In this workshop, we will individually reflect upon the semester's teaching in general as well as focus on one specific course as it wraps up. Taking our experience, course design, and assignments into consideration, we will consider such questions as:

What were the successes and pleasures of the semester? At what points in the course or on what assignments did you see your students doing most of their learning or working the hardest? How can we make things easier for ourselves, as teachers, the next time the course is taught?

As we look back on the semester, we might also consider strategies and goals to take forward into courses planned for the spring – after a well-earned break.

Participants are asked to bring a syllabus and assignments and will use a series of questions to guide self-reflection. A group conversation will follow.

Current CTL Talking Teaching Covid Guidelines

We have arrived at the following guidelines, which might be modified throughout the semester:

- due to the size of the room and the nature of the discussion, we will not be offering a hybrid option at this time
- as is the CTL tradition, we will be serving food and beverages
- we ask that everyone come masked and remain masked unless you are eating or drinking
- people may choose to stay masked during the entire event; to-go containers will be provided for those who would like to eat on their own (because food will be available at 8:15 AM, you can also come and eat early)
- given weather conditions, etc. ... we will do all we can to provide good ventilation (e.g., we will open the doors in Hood)
- we will be running air purifiers during the event
- KN-95 and N-95 masks will be available for those who forget to bring their own

We are well aware that, particularly given the highly contagious nature of BA5, these measures only mitigate a person's risk of being exposed to Covid. There is no 100% safe way for us to meet in person, and we recognize that some people will choose not to attend an event where, even if they remain masked, there are other unmasked people. We understand that these measures are imperfect, and ask for your patience and understanding.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please reach out to Michael at rededer@conncoll.edu.