Using Evidence: Changing Your Course to Improve Student Learning

During this interactive workshop, participants will consider data about student learning (both at the College in general and information related to their courses specifically) and revise a course with the aim of improving student learning, academic challenge, and student engagement. Participants will consider the data, explore ways to incorporate evidence-based teaching and learning practices into their course, and then re-design a course. Follow-up workshops will be offered later in the summer and during the fall semester.

*Workshop leaders include: Bridget Baird, Anne Bernhard, Leah Lowe, John Nugent, Michael Reder, Sufia Uddin, & Abby Van Slyck.*

Part 1: Tuesday, 24 May: 9:00 AM to Noon; lunch served at noon &
Part 2: Thursday, 26 May: 1:00 PM to 3 PM; lunch served at noon.

Film Studies Boot Camp

How can faculty who are not trained in film studies most effectively use film in their courses? How do you talk about film? How do you have your students discuss, respond to, or write about the films they see? During this hands-on, multi-day workshop, faculty will learn all the basics—including vocabulary and film techniques—for analyzing films as texts. In addition to a variety of clips throughout the workshop, participants will view (either on their own or in a group) two fiction films and a documentary: Tom Tykwer’s *Lola Rennt (Run Lola Run)* (1998), Michel Gondry’s *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004), and Errol Morris’s *Mr. Death* (1999). Faculty will receive a copy of Bordwell & Thompson’s *Film Art* (2008).

*Led by Nina K. Martin in Film Studies; participation is limited to 15 faculty.*

Part 1: Tuesday, 24 May: 1:00 PM to 4 PM; lunch served at noon.
Part 2: Wednesday, 25 May: 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM; lunch served at 12:30 PM.
Part 3: Friday, 27 May: Noon to 3 PM; lunch served at noon.
CTL Reading & Discussion Groups:

**Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other (2011)** by Sherry Turkle.

MIT Professor Turkle explores the ways in which technology designed to increase communication (cell phones, emailing, texting, Facebook, Twitter) may be pushing people farther apart, and the consequences for society as a whole—especially those growing up in this age of disconnected human interaction. For more information about the book, visit Amazon. *Discussion led by Leah Lowe & Bridget Baird.*

Wednesday, 25 May: 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM; breakfast served at 8 AM.

**Key Issues in Liberal Education**

We will discuss a selection of readings on pressing issues in liberal arts education and learning, including Richard Arum, Josipa Roska, & Esther Cho’s position paper “Improving Undergraduate Learning” (SSRC, 2011; Arum & Roska are the authors of *Academically Adrift*); chapters from Martha Nussbaum’s *Not For Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities* (Princeton, 2010); a controversial *New York Times* editorial “End the University as We Know It” by Mark C. Taylor (and some of the over 400 responses it garnered); a recent speech given by Bennington College President Elizabeth Coleman; a *New York Times* review essay by Peter Brooks; and a selection of evidence about student learning here at Connecticut College. *Discussion led by Roger Brooks, Julie Rivkin, & Abby Van Slyck.*

Wednesday, 25 May: 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM; lunch served at 12:30 PM.

**How Learning Works:**

*7 Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching (2010)*


This lively, critically-acclaimed book offers straightforward, practical strategies for course design and teaching based on research about learning taken from diverse disciplines and perspectives. For more information about the book, visit Amazon. *Discussion led by Anne Bernhard & Sufia Uddin.*

Thursday, 26 May: 10:00 AM to Noon; lunch served at noon.

If you are interested in participating in one or more of these reading & discussion groups, please email Michael Reder at reder@conncoll.edu to request your copy of these books or readings.

**Writing & Academic Challenge: Integrating Writing & Subject Matter**

There is a general consensus that serious attention to the teaching of writing must be a crucial element of any rigorous academic program. But that still leaves the thorny question of how exactly one is supposed to balance the teaching of writing and the teaching of other subject matter in the classroom when one's time is, after all, limited. In this workshop, we'll consider various time-efficient strategies for stimulating our students to become both critical thinkers and accomplished writers. *Led by Steve Shoemaker, with Jason Nier & Julie Rivkin.* Co-sponsored by The Writing Center.

Wednesday, 25 May: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM; lunch served at 12:30 PM.
New Media & Social Media in Your Courses and Assignments
Students are constant consumers of and contributors to new media and social media in their everyday lives—Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, blogs, wikis, online newspapers. How can you take advantage of all that is available and encourage students to look at new media with a critical eye? During this discussion, following up on the Talking Teaching “Adding Popular and New Media to your Syllabus”, faculty will present examples of course assignments and student work incorporating the use of New and Popular Media. Co-sponsored by Information Services.

Wednesday, 25 May: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM; lunch served at 12:30 PM.

Go Paperless: Online Assignment Submission through Moodle
Moodle’s Assignment activity creates electronic dropbox functionality directly in your course’s Moodle site. At this hands-on workshop, you will learn how to set up an Assignment in Moodle, collect your student’s submissions, grade those submissions and provide feedback to students. You will learn how the Assignment activity ties into the gradebook and how the Moodle gradebook can be used to calculate student grades. Best practices for setting up online assignments and examples of successful uses of the Assignment activity by College faculty will be discussed. Co-sponsored by Information Services.

Wednesday, 25 May: 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM; lunch served at 12:30 PM.

Collaborating Using Google Apps for Education: Google Docs & Google Sites
The College’s switch to Gmail also made available the entire collection of Google Apps for Education. Google Docs and Google Sites are two of the applications in the Google Apps suite that many faculty and students are already using in classes. Google Docs can be used to create and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets and presentations and Google Sites can be used to create either individual or collaborative websites and wikis. This hands-on session will allow you to begin using Google Docs and Google Sites, and to learn about how they can be used successfully in your courses. Co-sponsored by Information Services.

Thursday, 26 May: 10:00 AM to Noon; lunch served at noon.

Finding Your Funding Match
During this hands-on workshop, you will learn to use the latest tools to explore funding opportunities from around the world and increase your networking options in your field of interest. Explore how SPIN locates the most current fellowships, stipends and grants available based on your specific research interests. After a quick tour of this user-friendly system, you will learn to create a GENIUS research profile to receive SMARTS matches, and see how to store your curriculum vitae, making the most of your network options. SPIN is available to all faculty, from all disciplines, searching for sponsored research opportunities. Co-sponsored by Corporate, Foundation & Government Relations.

Thursday, 26 May: 1:00 PM to 3 PM; lunch served at noon.

If you would like to participate in any of these workshops or discussions, please contact Michael at reder@conncoll.edu and list the events you would like to attend.