

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

Talking Teaching

Spring 2022

on Zoom (mostly)



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 current teaching and on our students' learning experiences. Topics are listed below, with dates & times and preliminary descriptions.

We hope to see you at these events!

Strategies for Preparing for the Uncertain Spring Semester

Tuesday 18 January 2022 1 PM to 2:30 on Zoom

Zoom link will be sent 3 hours before the event from "IS Hours & Events"

How can you intentionally create a classroom community from the start, even when starting the first week remotely? How might the course design principles of focus, simplify, and scaffold, as well as the teaching principles of community, flexibility, and equity, be more important than ever? During this interactive discussion, we will review these important principles for course design and teaching, share specific ideas and strategies, and then make space for you to think about how to incorporate these ideas into your teaching. We will also address the social and emotional facets of teaching and learning in this context. (90 mins)

CTL Spring 2022 Syllabus Workshop

Friday 21 January 2022 11 AM to 1PM on Zoom

Zoom link will be sent 24 hours before the event from "IS Hours & Events"

How can you create a syllabus that maximizes flexibility and takes into account the challenging times in which students are learning and we are teaching? During this interactive workshop we will break into small groups to workshop a draft of your syllabus. This is an online version of the CTL's most popular—and many find most immediately helpful—workshop. (2 hours).

Before the workshop please upload a draft of your syllabus to this shared Google folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ICc0qWwp1xU0xPUjpkLh5yJDYC3nfYN?usp=sharing>

How Is Your Teaching Going this Semester?

Tuesday 1 March 2022 from 4 PM to 5:30 PM **In-Person**

For this In-Person Event an email with the location will be sent (from "IS Hours & Events") 24 hours prior to the event.

As the pandemic drags on and faculty, staff, and students grow increasingly weary, what are the implications for our teaching and for student learning? Together we will discuss the following questions: how is our teaching going this semester? What is working well and what has been challenging? What insights or pedagogical practices from the past two years are you continuing or changing? What practices or insights from before the pandemic are you reviving? Please join colleagues for a conversation about how things are going, what we are learning, and what we may want to consider doing in our classrooms, studios, and labs.

*We recognize that people have different levels of comfort with in-person events. We know that many faculty and staff are craving in-person community with colleagues. Others may also be craving the same but, due to familial or personal health risks, are understandably hesitant to participate in in-person events beyond our classes and work with students. In order to best accommodate everyone's needs and priorities, we are offering this event in two different formats on two different days. The in-person format will be a "Talking Teaching Tea," and light food and refreshments will be served for those who feel comfortable partaking. Due to social distancing, the number of participants will be limited.

The In-Person event will take place in Hood on Tuesday 1 March 2022 from 4 PM to 5:30 PM.

If you would rather (or additionally) attend via Zoom on Thursday 3 March 2022 from Noon to 1:15 PM, please register here: <https://conncoll.libcal.com/calendar/ctl/attending-via-zoom>

How Is Your Teaching Going this Semester?

Thursday 3 March 2022 from Noon to 1:15 PM via Zoom

For this Zoom event a link (from “IS Hours & Events”) will be sent 24 hours before the event.

As the pandemic drags on and faculty, staff, and students grow increasingly weary, what are the implications for our teaching and for student learning? Together we will discuss the following questions: how is our teaching going this semester? What is working well and what has been challenging? What insights or pedagogical practices from the past two years are you continuing or changing? What practices or insights from before the pandemic are you reviving? Please join colleagues for a conversation about how things are going, what we are learning, and what we may want to consider doing in our classrooms, studios, and labs.

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Registration is required—please RSVP by Friday 25 February.

The Zoom event to be held on Thursday 3 March 2022 from Noon to 1:15 PM.

To register for the In-Person event on Tuesday 1 March 2022 from 4 PM to 5:30 PM please click here: <https://conncoll.libcal.com/calendar/ctl/attending-in-person>

First-to-Second Year Student Retention: Trends, Practices, and Opportunities for Engagement

Monday 11 April, Noon to 1:15 PM on Zoom

For this Zoom event a link (from “IS Hours & Events”) will be sent 3 hours before the event.

Creating meaningful relationships with our students is a key part of their educational experience. Connecticut College has long had a focus on student retention from the first to second year. Figuring out what makes students stay or leave is both an important and complex question. Faculty, staff, and even students have been working to figure out strategies for making the college experience for our students more engaging and welcoming. This workshop will build on this work.

This interactive session will engage participants in discussion about what we already do to support students, examine recent data on who leaves the college, and invite contributions in order to create a joint vision for student retention going forward.

All interested faculty, staff, and administrators are encouraged to attend.

Discussants include Erika Smith, Emily Morash, and Carmela Patton.

Understanding Neurodiversity: Removing Barriers for Equitable Learning

Thursday 28 April Noon to 1:30 PM on Zoom

For this Zoom event a reminder with a link (from “IS Hours & Events”) will be sent 3 hours before the event.

Do you want to gain a better understanding of the conditions that allow neurodiverse students to succeed in our Connecticut College community? The number of students that identify with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis and/or other forms of neurodiversity has increased in the past few years. Out of the 277 students registered with Connecticut College’s Office of Student Accessibility Services, 141 of them fall under the umbrella of neurodiversity—and we know that there are many more students that identify as neurodiverse that are not connected with that office.

We invite faculty and staff to join us for a workshop to learn more about neurodiversity and practices to increase participation and make your work with neurodiverse students as welcoming and inclusive as possible. This workshop will explore the stereotypes attached to neurodiversity, discuss the “service cliff” many students and families face when a college journey begins, and examine the barriers that students who are neurodiverse experience in and outside of the classroom. We will also discuss strategies and tools for promoting full participation and equity in your classroom, studio, lab, or office.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Accessibility and the Office of the Dean of Institutional Equity & Inclusion.