



# Talking Teaching

## Spring 2017

### PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS . . .

Talking Teaching is a series of informal discussions of teaching-related topics—suggested by faculty members—over breakfast or lunch (or, new this year, afternoon “tea”). 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 times and preliminary descriptions.

***We are looking for discussants for these events.*** For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring a question or an idea to spark the collective exchange of ideas. Interest in the topic, not extended preparation, is the only requirement to be a discussant.

Please contact Dave Chavanne ([dchavann@conncoll.edu](mailto:dchavann@conncoll.edu)) or Tanya Schneider ([tschneid@conncoll.edu](mailto:tschneid@conncoll.edu)) if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant.

We hope to see you at these events!

## Navigating Difficult Moments in Class

TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY, 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

How do we respond effectively when societal events, campus incidents, or even in-class comments unexpectedly require us to go off-script in our classes? How can we create “brave spaces” where our students can discuss challenging topics that affect them and warrant a direct response in class? In this session we will share examples and explore approaches to these challenging situations. Join us to discuss what we can do in difficult circumstances to identify when students need support, and help them receive support, while allowing them to learn with and from each other.

*Discussants include* Ginny Anderson, Lauren Anderson, Simon Feldman, John McKnight, & Bryana White.

## Strategies for Getting Students to Do the Reading

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY, NOON to 1:30 PM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

Getting students to complete reading assignments before class is often easier said than done. What are the specific strategies, such as quizzes, in-class discussions, or out-of-class assignments, that inspire students to prepare for class and that foster meaningful interactions in class? Does increased access to digital and technological resources make accomplishing this goal easier or more difficult? In this session, we will discuss some approaches that our colleagues take to get students to “do the reading” in order to make class time more productive and engaging.

# What We Know about Student Experiences in the First Year

THURSDAY 2 MARCH, 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

At the end of this past semester, first-year students were asked to complete a survey reflecting on their FYS and pre-major advising. In addition, FYS instructors, staff advisers, student advisers, and faculty/staff who led FYS modules (i.e., common hour events) completed a separate set of questionnaires about their experiences with the revised FYS program. This event will be dedicated to discussing the results of these surveys. How effectively did First-Year Seminars achieve the goals articulated in the FYS legislation? What were the successes and challenges of team advising? How effective was the new FYS module format? Come discuss the lessons that we can draw moving forward in light of what we have learned and the steps that might be taken with respect to next year's First-Year Seminars.

## Fostering Student Metacognition: Concrete Strategies for Improving Student Learning

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

What is metacognition and what does it have to do with teaching & learning? New research suggests that one way to unlock a student's learning potential is to teach him or her *how to learn*. By helping foster student self-reflection and self-regulation, we can help learners become both more efficient and more effective. As part of this workshop we will briefly discuss the latest research on metacognition & learning, share some metacognitive strategies that faculty at the college use across the disciplines, and consider possible exercises to easily incorporate into specific assignments or courses you are currently teaching.

## Teaching & Supporting Our International Students

PART OF THE "TALKING TEACHING TOO" SERIES

WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH, NOON to 1:30 PM

1941 ROOM in CRO

As we continue to think about full participation in our classrooms, what particular challenges do international students encounter? How does the current political climate of growing isolationism, xenophobia, and federal policies that are openly hostile to "foreigners" impact our international students? This session offers an opportunity to hear from some of our international students regarding their experiences on campus. How might we best support these students? Please come join faculty and staff colleagues who work closely with our international students, and learn from the students themselves.

*As part of CTL "Talking Teaching Too" this event will include student participants and will emphasize the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty members.*

## Exams & the Honor Code Given Today's Technology

FRIDAY 21 APRIL, NOON to 1:30 PM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

At Connecticut College, we are proud of our honor code. However, particularly with the ubiquitous nature of online resources, many of us experience cheating during exams and are left unsure how to create a fair learning environment. Are there ways that we can foster academic integrity without creating an environment of distrust? Can we make exam questions be "cheat-proof," devoid of any information that can be readily found online? What level of cheating would make us rethink our reliance on self-scheduled, un-proctored exams? We will discuss these questions and others so that we can ensure a climate of academic honesty that does not favor some students and frustrate others.

***Willing to serve as a Discussant for one of these events? Interested in attending any or all?*** Please contact Dave Chavanne ([dchavann@conncoll.edu](mailto:dchavann@conncoll.edu)) or Tanya Schneider ([tschneid@conncoll.edu](mailto:tschneid@conncoll.edu)).