

Course in College Teaching sample syllabus

Overview

This eight-week course provides an opportunity for instructors, professors, and graduate student teachers from all disciplines to share ideas and strategies for successful teaching. The course will include discussion and practice based on information drawn from the teaching and learning literature, as well as from the experiences of individual participants. The course materials and discussions provide you with practical and innovative ways to improve your teaching effectiveness and help you respond to the various learning needs of your students.

Intended audience

The course is for Penn State faculty of any rank or status and TAs who are *currently teaching or who have recently taught* and expect to do so again within the next semester or two. The course is not designed to meet the needs of first-time teachers. If you have questions about course fit, please contact the course facilitators as soon as possible.

Overall course objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

- apply good principles of course design and planning
- integrate teaching and assessment strategies to enhance student learning
- reflect on your beliefs and practices about teaching and learning
- locate resources on teaching and learning available at Penn State

Session objectives

Please see the Course Schedule and Assignments document in our course's Piazza group for weekly session objectives.

Course format

We provide a structured, but flexible, atmosphere for the open exchange of ideas on important issues related to teaching and learning. The methods will vary with each session's assigned topic, but each session will include time to address issues raised by individuals concerning both classroom experiences and professional development. There will be three sessions of the course where participants will complete online activities rather than meet face-to-face.

Course completion certificate

The Schreyer Institute awards a certificate to participants who:

- attend at least four of the five face-to-face sessions of the Course in College Teaching,
- participate in all three of the online sessions, and
- successfully complete the three course assignments

While no formal "certification" process exists for college instructors, the Schreyer Institute does provide you with documentation of your participation in this course. The course certificate may be included in your teaching portfolio as evidence of your professional development as an instructor.

PLEASE NOTE: The course completion certificate for the Course in College Teaching is different than the Graduate School Teaching Certificate. For a complete list of the requirements for the Graduate School Teaching Certificate, please see: [Graduate School Teaching Certificate](#)

CCT Piazza site

This course will use the social network site Piazza for communication and for storage of course content. We have chosen to use Piazza because of its ease of use. After you create a free account at <https://piazza.com/> and

after you register for the course, you will be able to access the CCT group. This is a private group, so only participants in the CCT will be able to see the materials and communications posted.