

Welcome to Teaching at UTSC!



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Today in this session
we will think about

- Teaching with
Humanity
- Your teaching, for
learning,- partners

What your teaching orientation this week will include:

- Sessions to help you understand your students and their learning needs
- Sessions about what learning science tells us about how adults learn and the principles of course and assignment design that flow out of this
- A session on key policies on classroom teaching
- Sessions that will help you develop and articulate your teaching professional development
- Introductions to and opportunities to work with your learning partners (right after me)
- Tips for teaching with humanity (now)

You are an expert in your discipline. This is obviously important in helping you decide what to teach, and teach effectively.

But kindness, empathy, respect and fairness are the pillars of humanity that are needed to create an atmosphere conducive to learning.

In the heat of the moment it can be challenging to keep these pillars in action. But doing so will greatly enhance yours and the student's experience.

Establish an atmosphere of mutual respect

- Listen actively to questions and comments; respond thoughtfully- take your time responding
- Show students you value their time by the careful consideration you put into the length and number of assignments and readings you give, and the marks you assign to these assignments.

Establish an atmosphere of mutual respect

- Show students you value their time by starting and ending class promptly and by being prepared.
- Show students that you value their time by being at your office hours
- If you have to cancel a class, tutorial, or office hours, post an announcement electronically in time so that students don't make a special trip in, or stay longer etc.

- Don't be afraid to let students see that learning is messy and hard and exciting
- Don't be afraid to struggle with a solution in an example, to think out loud
- If you make a mistake, correct it without making a big deal of it

You are passionate about your subject, let it show!

- Try to leave at least 10 minutes before you start class as a time to relax and get ready to teach
- Avoid dealing with student problems before class begins.
- Allow at least 10 minutes after class is over for student questions and concerns (in the hallway).
- If students ask for special consideration, ask them to write the request and tell them you will consider it and get back to them quickly (& do)

Consider a 'first day of class' slide

Help for Students and Students helping students

1. Take your skills to the next level!

Academic Advising and Career Counseling

English Language Development Centre

Facilitated Study Groups

The Math and Stats Centre

The Writing Centre

2. Get support and/or become a peer helper

Academic Advising and Career counseling

Health and Wellness Centre

Accessibility Services

Writing Centre

English Language Development

3. Please consider being volunteer notetaker

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/involved_notetaker.html

Even as you enforce the university's rules and standards

Be empathetic; remember what it was like:

- to be an undergraduate, not sure of their place in the world
- to be the one being assessed, trying to find oneself
- to have high family expectations that rested on your shoulders.
- to be immersed in a new culture, needing to use precision Academic English when English is a 2nd language or you are a 1st generation to university

Be kind

There will be many times when you will have to refuse a student request for an extension, a grade 'upgrade', a make up test, etc.

Even as you do so, try to show that you understand their frustration, recognize the difficulty of their situation, can acknowledge the pressure and challenges they are facing.

Teaching with Humanity

Some quotes from Parker Palmer's book ,
“The Courage to Teach”

“Good Teaching can not be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher”

“Good teachers possess a capacity for connectedness.”

-Find your own way to connect your content-expertise and humanity to your student's learning