

## Practical Pedagogy for Biology, Fall 2024

1 credit, Wednesdays, 7:20 – 9:10 pm, Carr 222

Course Instructor: Dr. Christine Davis, Instructional Professor

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Office: Carr 620 - office hours by appointment

### Course description and learning goals

This course is designed to prepare you for and support your work as a teaching assistant, and will help build a foundation for teaching throughout your career. Through discussions, workshops, personal reflection, and peer and faculty feedback, you will:

1. Create a peer and faculty support system for teaching;
2. Create a respectful and supportive atmosphere within your own classrooms;
3. Explore techniques to create an inclusive classroom;
4. Develop practical teaching skills and learn how to organize your teaching to reach specific learning goals.

### Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Follow the law and university procedures while teaching;
2. Discuss techniques to show concern for students and foster an inclusive classroom;
3. Organize your lesson plans;
4. Find resources and support for teaching.

### How your success in the course will be determined

You will demonstrate proficiency in teaching by successful completion of these assignments:

Assignment	Percentage of grade
Attendance	20
FERPA training and teaching reflections	20
Presentation of sample lecture	20
Completion of self-evaluation of teaching video	20
Instructor feedback on your teaching (rubric values)	20

### Assignment descriptions

**Teaching reflections** – Periodically, you'll participate in a Canvas discussion in response to a prompt. The prompt will ask you about your teaching experience that week and how what you've learned in this class applies to your experience. You'll be able to view others' comments and will be able to respond to them, if you like.

**FERPA training** – complying with this federal law is absolutely required when teaching college students, but the nuts and bolts of the law are tricky. The University provides online training for this law, which you are required to complete successfully in this class. The training should take no more than a couple of hours of your time, and may save you a lot of trouble later on in your career.

**Sample lecture** - You'll have the opportunity to prepare, improve, and then present a 5-minute teaching lecture at the end of the course.

**Evaluations of your teaching** – First, you will record yourself in the classroom with your students. You will critically evaluate your own teaching using a rubric, then write a page describing your observations and suggestions for improvement. Later, I will observe you live in the classroom and give some feedback to improve your teaching. I will specifically address points identified in your self-evaluation, looking for improvements.

## Tentative course schedule

Meeting	Topic	Assignment given (due the following class meeting)
8/28	Getting off to a good start Discussion: Creating a positive classroom environment; your biggest worry	Complete <a href="#">FERPA training module</a> Reading assignments:
9/4	Discussion: FERPA; time management	Reading assignment: <a href="#">Disrespect and Disruption in the College Classroom</a> <a href="#">How to make your teaching more inclusive</a>
9/11	Discussion: Inclusivity and incivility	Reading assignment: <a href="#">Basic information about the DRC</a>
9/18	<b>Guest address – Disability Resource Center (DRC)</b>	<a href="#">Teaching reflection 1</a> Video and self-assessment of your teaching
9/25	<b>Guest address – International Center</b>	Reading assignment: <a href="#">How to ask the right question</a>
10/2	Discussion: Questioning techniques that encourage critical thinking; backward design	Reading assignment: TBA
10/9	Discussion: Making assessments fair and informative	<a href="#">Teaching reflection 2</a>
10/16	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
10/23	Discussion: good pedagogical practices	Instructor feedback on your teaching

10/30	Discussion: Creating an engaging lecture	<a href="#">Teaching reflection 3</a> Prepare draft - 5 minute sample lecture
11/6	Discussion: TBA	<a href="#">Teaching reflection 4</a>
11/13	5 minutes lecture presentations	Finalize your lecture presentation
11/20	End of class outing	
12/4	No class - BSC2010/BSC2011 exam proctoring	Happy winter break!