



Fall Faculty Workshop
Thursday, August 17, 2017
9:30- 12:30
Carl Grant Events Center

Plenary Session: Enhancing Teaching and Learning through Course Evaluations

At Union University the primary purpose of student course evaluations is to assess and improve teaching effectiveness and enhance significant learning. An additional purpose is to provide faculty members with information to consider alongside their own reflection on the course and in collaboration with each department chair to develop goals for their Faculty Development Plans (FDPs). Student course evaluations have the potential to over-emphasize the instructor's responsibility in the learning process. Therefore this instrument includes questions designed to assess the students' awareness of their own responsibilities in learning. The Student Course Evaluation instrument at Union University assesses the following general categories: Student Interaction with the Course; Faculty Interaction with the Course; Faith and Life; Organization and Clarity; and Ability to Engage Students Intellectually.

Speakers: Ashley Blair, Associate Professor of Communication Arts, Jeannette Russ, Professor of Engineering and Department Chair, and John Netland, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

10:15 -11:15

Six Concurrent Sessions

White Hall

Concurrent Session One: *Professionalism is the New Participation*

Session Description: The professionalism approach addresses the student responsibility section of the new course evaluations. This workshop explores how to craft a professionalism policy and rubric, replacing a negative list of "don'ts" with positive, mutually beneficial expectations that facilitate transformational teaching. New Course Evaluation Questions addressed in this session: 1-4, 6, 7, 15.

Location: White Hall Room 201

Speaker: Ashley Blair

Concurrent Session Two: *Ways of Creating an Engaged Learning Environment*

Session Description: This session will survey strategies for keeping students engaged in course material, focusing on pre-class "priming the pump" exercises as well as activities to supplement lecture. These strategies will be designed to foster active learning, keeping the focus on subject matter over mere entertainment. We will reserve plenty of time to survey and discuss session participants' best practices as well. This session is designed to correspond to evaluation Questions 5 and 10: "The professor fostered an engaging learning environment"; "The course content was effectively communicated."

Location: White Hall 202

Speakers: Gavin Richardson and Jonathan Allen

Concurrent Session Three: *Thinking Christianly and Forming Christian Character*

Session Description: This session will focus on course evaluation questions 8 & 9 and explore the various ways faculty are shaping students in both curricular and co-curricular contexts. New ideas and strategies will be shared.

Location: White Hall Room 102

Facilitators: Ben Mitchell and Matt Lunsford

Concurrent Session Four: *Teaching toward the Goal - Creating a Cohesive Course*

Session Description: This session will focus on the importance of having a clearly defined course goal. It will include discussion and practical advice on how to construct or adapt a cohesive course by selecting activities, assignments, and assessments that support the course goal. Course Evaluation Questions addressed in this session: 11, 12, 13, 14.

Location: White Hall Room 203

Speakers: Colene Trent and Josh Veltman

Concurrent Session Five: *Meaning Before Details: Encouraging Thoughtfulness*

Session Description: This session addresses meaningfulness as related to the student evaluation questions (16, 17, & 18) regarding students' perceptions of learning to critically evaluating ideas, engaging challenging, thoughtful work, and thinking about the interconnections in course topics. In considering meaningfulness, we provide our colleagues with opportunities to think about the larger concepts in their courses, ways of helping students interconnect ideas, and developing students' disciplined thinking in the content areas. We welcome diversity of disciplines for this workshop.

Location: White Hall Room 205

Speakers: Dianne Morgan, Randy Schwindt, and Christie Davis

Concurrent Session Six: *Effective Teaching and Learning in Online Courses*

Session Description: Good teaching is good teaching whether face-to-face or online. This session will consider the ways that an online teaching environment can address the five course evaluation areas: Professional is the new Participation, Creating an Engaged Learning Environment, Thinking Christianly and forming Christian character, Teaching Toward the Goal: Creating a Cohesive Course, and Meaning Before Details: Encouraging Thoughtfulness.

Location: White Hall Room 214

Speakers: Beth Madison and Hayward Armstrong

BREAK

Waters and trail mix are available in White Hall

11:30- 12:30 Repeat Six Concurrent Sessions