Dear Colleagues,

“It should have gone well. You crafted provocative discussion questions. You chose compelling and relevant texts. Yet your every attempt to get the students talking fell flat.”

So begins Jay Howard’s “Advice Guide” on how to hold a better class discussion (click here). We highly recommend that you peruse the article and try out some of his suggestions, whether you’re seeing blank faces or not.

Several of you have contacted us about how to work with students who have special accommodation for learning disabilities when you give quizzes (planned or pop), short tests or in-class essays. Our first Mellon workshop of the year, “Creating Inclusive Classrooms”, Wed. Oct. 2, 5:30-7 in Q-609 (followed by a “pot”), will be on this topic, led by a visiting scholar from Albion College (Michigan), Lynn Verduzco-Baker, who holds a Ph.D. in sociology and women’s studies from the University of Michigan. In her research, she considers various perspectives on the pedagogical and institutional needs of students with disabilities or from disadvantaged populations. In the meantime, if you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

We’ve also heard from many of you that more and more students are not doing the readings you assign. In the next TLC lunch “Cultivate a Love of Reading”, Wed. 25 Sept., 12:15-1:15 in Q-609, we’ll talk about strategies to encourage our students to read their assignments and cultivate a productive attitude toward reading in general. Come and share your thoughts, ideas and strategies with us! And don’t forget to bring your lunch!

Finally, this is a reminder that the deadline for some of our Mellon grant applications has been extended to Thurs. Oct. 3 (see Brenda’s e-mail message dated Sept. 20). Please send applications to Brenda Torney (btorney@aup.edu).

Have a good week!

Your TLC

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