

From: Brenda Torney
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Faculty
Subject: TLC News

Dear colleagues,

Bigger isn't always better.

One of the things the Teaching and Learning Center busies itself with is understanding the latest theories of pedagogy. Some of these suggest teachers think about radical reworkings of their course syllabi. These can be extremely effective and inspiring ways to redesign a course, but might not always be right for everyone, not least because of the time such initiatives take. What about, for example, those profs who just want to tweak what already is a winning formula? What if you need a couple of ideas to change a class or two, here and there?

We've recently come across the refreshing and very readable work of Joe Ben Hoyle, the award winning Assistant Professor of Accountancy at the University of Richmond. His short, self-published pamphlet, *Tips and Thoughts On Improving The Teaching Process In College*, has an inelegant title but is filled with graceful suggestions about the gentle changes teachers can made to their classrooms. His ideas are practical, useful and thought provoking. Best of all, the text is freely available online:

<https://facultystaff.richmond.edu/~jhoyle/documents/Book-Teaching-X.doc.pdf>

Hoyle's book comprises 34 very short essays, each of them suggesting something you can try to change the classroom dynamic. There's nothing revolutionary or intimidating here, but advice drawn from a long teaching career, and thoughtful, philosophical things to think about. He encourages teachers, for example, to adopt what he calls his "Fly on the wall" approach:

"On the final day, the students file from the room for the last time. Now, pretend that you are a fly on the wall listening to their parting remarks. What do you want to hear them say as they exit? I am not asking what you believe they will talk about but rather what mumbled comments would absolutely thrill your soul. What student words do you hope to hear at the end of a course? Uncovering that desired response provides a real standard to guide the educational process for each class"

We've found Hoyle's book an interesting and useful read. Why not download it if you have a spare five minutes? Let us know what you think.

Below are dates of upcoming TLC events:

TLC Lunches (Tues. 12-1:15) – Bring your lunch; some locations and themes are TBA.

26 Sept. *Faculty-Student Research Collaboration*, facilitated by Roy Rosenstein and students (in Amélie room 3).

10 Oct. with Noemie Oxley (Global Communications)

24 Oct. *Global Course Connections: A Report on the GLAA workshop "Border Studies in the Liberal Arts"*, facilitated by Rika Roy (Comparative Literature) and Jonathan Shimony (Fine Arts).

14 Nov. TBA

28 Nov. TBA

Mellon Pedagogical Seminars (Wed. 5-6:30) – Wine and cheese will be served.

11 Oct. *Little things you can do to revitalize your teaching and actively engage your students*(facilitated by Elena Berg, Linda Martz, Rebekah Rast and Russell Williams)

15 Nov. *Creating digital mapping projects with your students*

All the best,

Your TLC

AUP's Teaching and Learning Center, tlc@aup.edu

Rebekah Rast, Director, rrast@aup.edu

Elena Berg, Faculty Fellow, eberg@aup.edu

Russell Williams, Faculty Fellow, rwilliams@aup.edu

Brenda Torney, Administrator, btorney@aup.edu