

TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING  
AND LEARNING AT TRU

Week Five: Teaching Philosophy

# TODAY'S AGENDA



Review expectations for self-evaluations.



30 minutes of portfolio time.



Review of the readings.



Who do we want to be as teachers?



What should be in your teaching philosophy? (And due date reminder.)



Questions!

# SELF-EVALUATION MUST HAVES:

500 words or 2-3 minutes of video or equivalent.

A personal evaluation out of 10.

A consideration of:

Participation

Attendance

Engagement

Professional Development

“A PEDAGOGY OF  
KINDNESS”  
BY CATE DENIAL

“There’s an obvious chance that I could be taken advantage of in this scenario, that someone could straight-up lie and get away with it.”

“To extend kindness means recognizing that our students possess innate humanity, which directly undermines the transactional educational model to which too many of our institutions lean, if not cleave. Transactional models of education identify students as consumers and teachers as retail workers who must please their customers (an inhumane model for retail sales as well as the world of learning).”

"EMBRACING  
SUBJECTIVITY"  
BY MAHA BALI

"Palmer talks about how our academic culture suppresses subjectivity, and by doing so, distances students from their own inner realities. He calls on us as teachers and learners to reclaim our hearts and to address each other's souls, an idea also suggested by bell hooks. To do so, we need to stop thinking of external reality as more valuable than subjectivity, to stop treating subjectivity as a barrier to overcome. Let's embrace it as the human condition, treat ourselves and our students as whole, absolutely subjective, human beings, and see where that takes us."

DID YOU SEE ANYTHING IN THESE READINGS  
THAT REFLECTS WHO YOU ASPIRE TO BE AS A  
TEACHER?

Of note: both Denial and Bali work in open education  
and Bale works extensively on building online  
community.

# WHO DO WE WANT TO BE AS TEACHERS?



These two texts get at a larger question: when we enter the classroom, who do we hope to be?



Ultimately, your teaching philosophy is an articulation of who that person is.



Let's take ten minutes of quiet reflective time to make some notes about who you want to be as a teacher. It can be a list of adjectives, a story that springs to mind, a series of doodles: anything the question evokes for you.



TEACHING PHILOSOPHIES  
ARE HARD.

It's a document that is simultaneously  
aspirational and actionable.





## LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

What commonalities did you notice in the Teaching Philosophies you reviewed for today's class?



WHITEBOARD DEBRIEF!

WHAT THE HECK IS IT  
\*FOR\*, ANYWAY?

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Include in your APAR or Performance Review as evidence of your reflective practice.

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Many hiring committees and all tenure/promotion reviews require them, as do many awards committees.

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It's also an excellent exercise in thinking through your practice and reflecting on whether it meets your philosophy.

# WHAT SHOULD YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY LOOK LIKE?



Be concrete: for every lofty ideal, include 1-2 concrete examples of how you enact it.



Use narrative first-person (tell the story of your teaching) and steer clear of jargon.



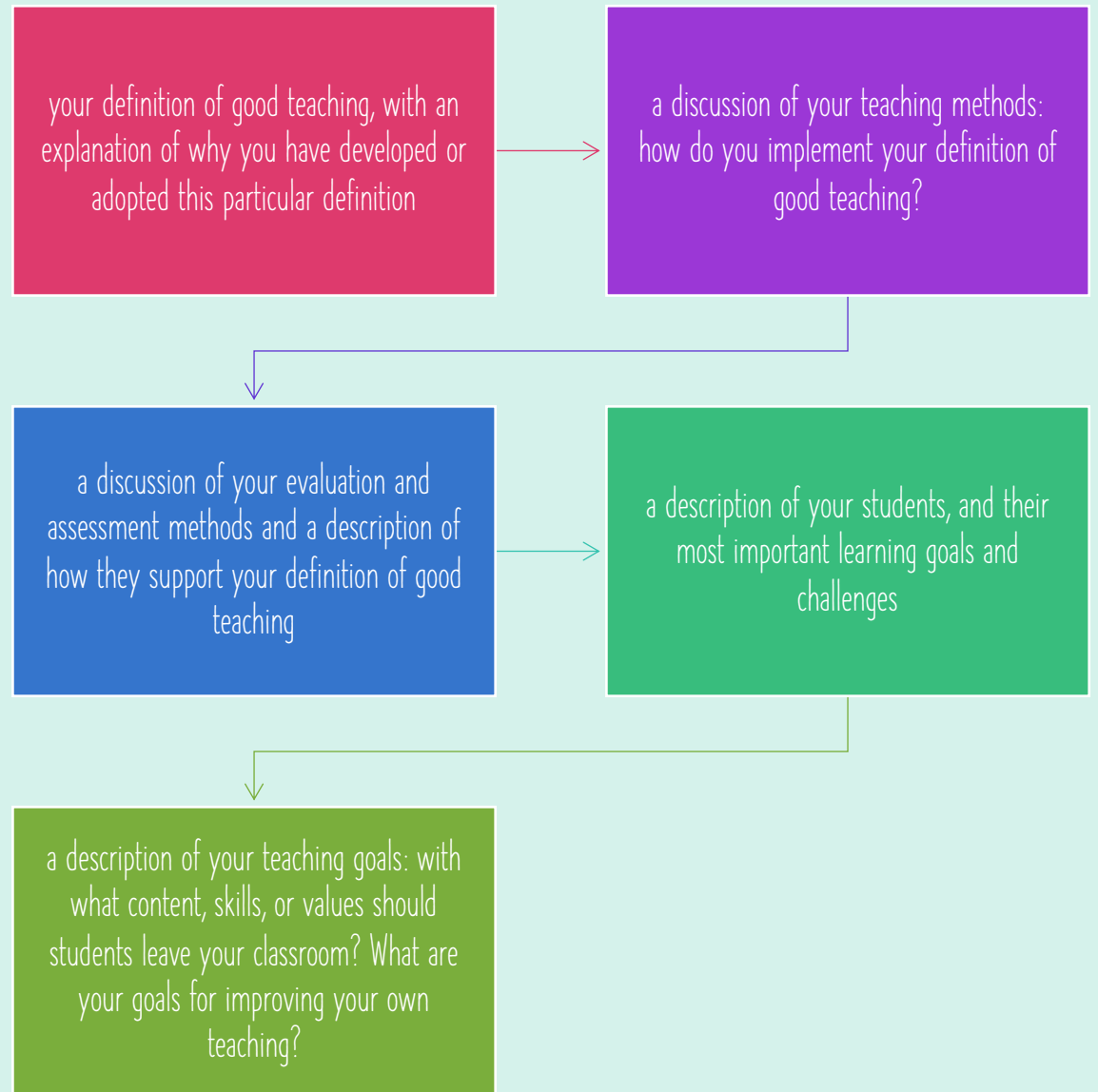
Do not just repeat content from your CV without context.



Watch how you describe yourself (avoid clichés) and students (don't be condescending).

# WHERE COULD YOU START?

(BORROWED FROM UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S  
CENTRE FOR TEACHING SUPPORT AND INNOVATION)



BUT REMEMBER...

... for our purposes, we  
want to know how  
\*technology\* fits into your  
teaching philosophy.



AS IT JUST SO  
HAPPENS, WE HAVE  
SHARED OUR  
TEACHING  
PHILOSOPHIES ON THE  
COURSE WEBSITE...

... so feel free to check  
them out!





Supported working time on  
October 18 (bring the notes  
you made today).

Teaching philosophy drafts  
due on October 25.

Remember, self-  
evaluations are due  
(email is fine)!

DATES TO REMEMBER...

REMEMBER:  
OFFICE HOURS  
(THEY'RE BACK!)

Mondays,  
4-5 pm

Right back here!

A green calendar grid is shown at an angle. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the upper left. The calendar numbers are in black and teal. The speech bubble contains the text "SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!" and "For a Working Party! Woo Hoo!".

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

For a Working Party! Woo Hoo!