

Course Goodbyes

The teaching literature is full of suggestions and tips for the first day of class. In fact, some of the most prestigious teaching books devote an entire chapter to the start of the semester (see for example McKeachie, 1999). Little literature, however, is devoted to how faculty should end their course. The time crunch at the end of the semester along with faculty discomfort with emotional good-byes is often the reason that creating a constructive end to the semester is avoided. There is some literature which contends that it is important to construct a positive ending for each semester. Eggleston and Smith (2002) hypothesize that “parting-ways” techniques should be employed to ignore the often awkward and rushed conclusion of a semester. Employing “parting-ways” techniques provides emotional and psychological closure, offers an opportune time to summarize the central ideas in your course, wraps up the course allowing students to assess their growth, increases the link between you, the faculty member and your students. To help you develop these “parting-ways,” the following are some tried and true techniques.

- Summarize the course material or review the course objectives. This allows the student to reflect on how far they have come since the beginning of the semester.
- Create the feeling that the course has come to a conclusion so it is time to move on.
- Have the students write letters to the students in your next class detailing what can be learned in your course as well as advising them of the ins and outs of the course.
- You can utilize a pre-test at the start of the semester and post test at the end, showing the students how much knowledge they have gained as a result of taking your course.
- Have the students complete sentence stems such as, “In this course I have learned _____ about myself.” Or “Something I learned about others in the course was _____.” These can then be shared with other students. Each individual student could keep these to reflect upon leaving the class.

If you think about it, you and your students dedicate close to **43 hours** of time in the classroom so it is fitting to spend some time allowing the students to bid each other and you a farewell.

Best of luck to you as you say goodbye to your students and your course for this semester and begin to think about next semester!

Works Cited:

Eggleston, R.J. and Smith, G.E. 2002. Parting Ways: Ending Your Course. *APS Observer* 15, 3.
McKeachie, W.J. 1999. *Teaching tips: Strategies, research and theory for college and university professors* (10th edition). Lexington, MA:

Student Work Left in SE 201

At the end of each semester the Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs receives many boxes and bags of student’s graded work. Our policy is to keep this graded work for six weeks from the end of the semester. If you avail yourself of this service, please communicate with your students that we dispose of this work after the six week deadline. If you don’t want us to dispose of your student’s work kindly come to our office to pick it up before the deadline. Also be sure to tell you students that they must show identification to pick-up their work. This follows the FERPA guidelines we support.

Grapes of Wrath Book Club



The Grapes of Wrath Book Club will be meeting once again during the Winter semester. Please join us on February 3rd at 4:30PM in SE 201 as we share teaching experiences (either wrathful or excellent) with some great colleagues in a relaxed setting. Aged grapes and book will be provided for refreshment.

Winter Workshops

The Winter workshop schedule should be out soon! Our office has already entered the workshops that we are sponsoring into the workshop webpage (www.svsu.edu/workshops). The *Lunch and Learns* and the *Grapes of Wrath Book Club* will continue next semester. Please join us for the fun! The Friday workshops being offered are *Unlearning to Learn* on February 10, *Creating WebQuests for Active Learning* on March 16th and *Five easy things you can do to your course this summer* on April 13th. All are offered at Noon. You might also consider redesigning your course or designing a new course by attending the Course Design workshop offered over the course of three months on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00AM. The dates for these workshops are February 18th, March 17th and April 21st. All adjunct faculty are invited to attend these workshops to increase their knowledge of student learning. Adjunct faculty who attend these workshops may be compensated \$25.00 for their time.

Reminders

The Adjunct Faculty office in Education North 135 has closed . Please feel welcome to utilize our office in SE 201 for your classroom supplies, mail or copy work.

Final grades are due by Noon on December 21st.

The University and our office will be closed over Winter Break from December 23rd to January 2nd. We will reopen from 8:00 until 4:30 on January 3rd.

Winter 2012 classes and our regular office hours will begin on Monday, January 9th, 2012.

Year Contract/Section Assignments

Emails are now being sent to all adjunct faculty who have talked to their department chair regarding a section assignment for the Winter semester. These emails ask that you go to Cardinal Direct and accept the Year Contract, if you are new to SVSU, and the Section Assignment. Section Assignments must be completed so that you can get paid in a timely manner. To get directions on this process please visit the following webpage: http://www.svsu.edu/fileadmin/websites/officeofadjunct/Forms/SA_Contract_Instructions.pdf

You may also contact us or drop in our office and we can walk you through the process.

Winter 2012 Adjunct Faculty Orientation



Each Winter semester, we offer an Orientation to new or newer adjunct faculty. This year the Orientation will be held on Wednesday, January 4th from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. This purpose of this Orientation is to familiarize adjunct faculty with the support services available on campus, the policies and procedures for being a member of the adjunct faculty and to learn about the technologies available to you in the classroom. If you are interested in attending this Orientation, please write us at adjunctfaculty@svsu.edu, call us at 989-964-4050 or register at the workshop site: www.svsu.edu/workshops. Dinner will be provided and you will be compensated \$50 for your time.

The Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season as well as a safe and happy New Year!