

Adjunct Faculty Academic Calendar

March:

3-9 Spring Break – No Classes

April:

26 Classes End

28 – May 3 Final Exams

May:

7 Grades Due to Registrar by Noon

10 Commencement

Workshops

(Register at: svsu.edu/workshops)

February 3, 2014

VSpace Test Center
10:00-11:00 C150

February 7, 2014

Collaborative Assignments and Projects- A High Impact Educational Practice
12:00-1:30 SE203

February 10-February 21

Two Week Course -Designing High Quality, Engaging Online Courses.
Contact Poonum Kumar at 964-4189

February 27, 2014

Helping International Students with their Written Work
4:00-5:00 Z303

February 29, 2014

Learn over Lunch:
Collaborative Learning Projects- Let's Share

Collaborative Assignments and Projects- A High Impact Educational Practice

As faculty, we all work toward enhancing our students' critical thinking abilities, deep learning capabilities and improved interpersonal skills. One way to promote these skills is through employing collaborative learning assignments and projects in your course design.

Collaborative learning involves small groups of students working on specific targeted tasks. The key to successful collaborative learning is "Structure! Structure! Structure!" Collaborative learning provides a non-threatening, learning context for interaction between students. Through the exchange of ideas and feedback from peers in small group settings, students can increase their ability to learn and develop strategies to enhance this learning. It is important to remember that all students need to learn and work in different environments and settings in order to be successful once on the job.

There are three guidelines to effectively use collaborative learning in your class:

1. Group size should be small
2. Heterogeneous groups tend to work better than randomly assigned groups or self-selected groups.
3. Groups should remain together long enough to establish positive working relationships and to develop team-building.

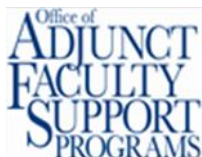
Two easy collaborative learning activities you might want to use in your instruction are:

Think- Pair- Share is an activity that allows students to independently think before sharing their responses to a prompt. To accomplish this give the students a prompt or a task. Ask them to compose a response, and then have them share this with the person sitting next to them. To widen the sharing the pair can turn around to the pair of students sitting behind them creating a square to share! After this sharing, each group can provide a verbal response to the class, thus encouraging discussion. This is a really good way of getting those students who are introverted to have a voice in your class.

Jigsaw allows small groups of students to work on different aspects of a single problem and then present their findings to the entire class or a family which consists of many members of expert groups. This activity allows students to become "experts" in a subtopic as they learn from one another. To use this collaborative method in your class, you will need to divide the students into small groups. Each group is then assigned a singular task or reading. Their discussion on the material usually lasts about 20 minutes. After this time, each group teaches/shares with the entire class their piece of the puzzle.

There are many other ways you might want to employ cooperative learning. To learn about these you might want to attend the workshop devoted to cooperative learning. This workshop will be held on February 7, 2014 at Noon in Science East 203. Lunch will be provided.

Source: Millis, Barbara J. (2002, October). *Enhancing Learning-and More! - Through Cooperative Learning*. Kansas State University, IDEA Center, Inc. http://www.theideacenter.org/sites/default/files/IDEA_Paper_38.pdf



HLC Visit

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is the organization which accredits degree-granting institutions of higher education that are also members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

HLC was founded in 1895. The association has over 1,000 member schools in 19 states including Saginaw Valley State University.

SVSU received its initial accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in 1970; approval for masters programs was granted in 1974. In 2012, SVSU requested approval to offer its first Doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, and this was approved by HLC. SVSU has maintained its comprehensive accreditation continuously since those initial approvals

This March SVSU is again scheduled to host members of the HLC Peer Review Team. What can faculty and their students do to get ready for the HLC Peer Review Team?

- Become familiar with SVSU's mission and vision (<http://www.svsu.edu/president/missionstatement/>)
- Become familiar with SVSU's newest Strategic Plan <http://www.svsu.edu/strategicplan/>
- Consider how the University's mission impacts your teaching, your students' learning and your experience at SVSU.
- Consider how you are contributing to the University's mission.
- It is quite possible that you will have an opportunity to interact with one of the members of the HLC review team! So be prepared. Give some thought to your experiences and perceptions of SVSU so that you are ready for interaction.
- Soon the self-study report will be made available to the entire campus community. When it does please read it and become familiar with the strengths, areas for improvement, and challenges that have been identified.

Faculty, Students and Focus

I just read that in Russian the word "focus" means "magic"! Sometimes the ability to focus, to stay on task, is very difficult and might require some magic. This is particularly true in modern industrial society where there are so many distractions. You can, however, train yourself to focus and invite your students to join you in this effort. The Mayo Clinic website offers some ideas to begin this focus training.

1. Screen out distractions. They suggest that you eliminate the use of any screens for two days to measure how much you can accomplish without these distractions.
2. Our days have peaks, when we are really in a good place and have a lot of energy, and valleys, when our energy is low. Don't squander your high energy periods doing menial work like checking email. Save this kind of work for when your energy is low. Use your high energy periods for work that requires sustained concentration.
3. Stop making mental notes to yourself. Dump those notes onto a piece of paper. Making lists helps to free up your mental energy and is a good way to track your daily progress.
4. Your brain is trainable. Learning to focus involves training and meditation is good method to employ. Meditation will help you turn your focus to important matters and off of the distractions constantly being sent our way.

These steps will help you become more productive and will help you develop a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.

Lecture Capture

We have an exciting technology "Lecture Capture" available at SVSU that you can use in your teaching. You can use Lecture Capture to record your "live" lectures in the classroom or to create narrated lectures/video tutorials at home so students can watch the lectures before or after class. Faculty who have used the technology have found it very useful for teaching complex concepts or for explaining assignment requirements. If you are interested in getting training in using the software and want to get it installed on your laptops, please contact Poonam Kumar at pkumar@svsu.edu

Library Resources and Services Guide

Reference services offers a support guide to feature key library resources and services that assist adjunct faculty with research and utilization of various library services. The guide provides quick access to resources that include the library catalog and databases. Services listed include interlibrary loan, library instruction request forms, and information for submitting suggestions for adding materials to the library (see request purchases and library liaison links). The SVSU Adjunct Faculty Library Support Guide also offers a chat window for quick access to a reference librarian and even a link out to this very newsletter!

Please visit this guide at <http://librarysubjectguides.svsu.edu/adjunct>
Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed!

Travel Compensation

Adjunct faculty are eligible for travel compensation if their trip to campus from their home address is 50 miles or more. Those who travel 50 to 75 miles are eligible for \$350 per course. Those faculty who travel 76 miles or more are eligible for \$500 per course. This compensation is paid by the Deans' Offices at mid-term.