

Adjunct Faculty Academic Calendar

December

- 9 Classes End
- 11-16 Final Exam Week
- 15&16 Commencement
- 19 Grades Due to Registrar by Noon
- 23 University Closed until January 3, 2018

Workshops:

- 4 Canvas: Gradebook, Assignments and Rubrics
 2:00 PM Z 115
- 5 Canvas Open Session
 10:00 AM Z 115
- 8 Videoconferencing
 1:00 PM C 140

Register for these and other workshops at: svsu.edu/workshops

With an Eye Toward Next Semester

1. **Self-Monitoring:** Have you been keeping a log of your teaching experiences? A written record of what went well and what could be improved upon at the end of each week is one way to be a more reflective instructor. Not only will a log help to improve your teaching immediately, but it can become a part of your teaching portfolio when it comes time to apply for those ever-elusive full-time positions.
2. **Audio/Video Recording:** Have you ever seen yourself teach, or heard one of your own lectures? Record your last lecture of the fall semester. It is a great way to see yourself as your students see you. You can also show the video to colleagues and ask them for feedback. Warning: prepare to be surprised. If you don't have a video camera, call SVSU's ITS office at x4225. They can help.
3. **Student Feedback:** Those student evaluations at the end of the semester that we're required to administer are valuable. But, you can ask your students for information that the evaluation form does not address. For instance, ask your students to include with their last assignment, a handwritten letter describing one big question that was answered for them, and one big question they still have.

SVSU's Grading Procedure

The online grading system is available at my.SVSU.edu. Log-in and go to the Faculty tab.

- According to the Registrar, the only grades that are accepted at SVSU are: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, and F. Grades like A+, C- or D+ are not a part of our grading policy.
- If a student has withdrawn from your class, it will be noted on the grade roster.
- For every student who receives an 'F', you must include the last date the student attended your class in a space designated on the page.
- For more information on this process, please go to this page: <http://www.svsu.edu/officeoftheregistrar/servicesforms/gradingandincompletes>
- Grades are due by Noon on Tuesday, December 19th.

Pizza Therapy!

**Was your semester a challenge?
 Come and grab a slice and unwind!
 Mingle with other adjunct faculty &
 Share your teaching triumphs and woes!**

Monday, Dec. 4th 3:00-6:00
 Tuesday, Dec. 5th 4:00-7:00
 Wednesday, Dec. 6th 11:30-2:30
 Thursday, Dec. 7th 11:30-2:30



Please RSVP to <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3978133/Pizza-Therapy-RSVP->

Facilitating Student Learning through Active Learning

Ellen Langer in her article, *How Students Learn* (2003), discusses three areas of research which demonstrate the ways in which students learn. The first area researched had to do with control. If students are given control over their education by allowing them to be responsible for their own learning they will derive greater benefits than with the teacher who tries to control how they will learn. Second, students who have to figure out remedies or answers to questions themselves, through their own volition, learn more than those students who are given the answers. Finally, students will be more mindful of the world if their education is more conditional. Mindlessness is based on categories that are defined for an individual. Mindfulness occurs when students have to process new information on their own by creating new categories and definitions.

One teaching method that addresses all three of these areas is active learning. Active learning involves more than sitting in a classroom listening. "Active learning involves providing opportunities for students to meaningfully talk and listen, write, read, and reflect on the content, ideas, issues, and concerns of an academic subject" (Meyers & Jones, 1993, p. 6). Active learning is based on two ideas: learning is an active process and people learn in different ways. Research shows that greater and deeper learning occurs when active learning techniques are employed. A few ideas you might try:

- Divide your class up into small groups and have each group solve a problem or answer a question.
- Have students interview people who are experts in their field who actually know something about some topic related to your class.
- Develop a WebQuest and have your students collaboratively work to synthesize information from the web.
- Have your students keep a journal about their feelings, ideas, and thoughts on the subject matter of your class.
- Ask the students for test questions for your exams and quizzes.
- Find ways for your students to actually do what they need to learn. This learning can be accomplished through role playing, service learning or simulations.

If you are interested in learning more about various means to utilize active learning in your classroom work, you are invited to attend the workshop titled, Active Learning and Student Learning being held on Friday, February 2nd; in Zahnow 223A at 12:30.

For more information on active learning go to:

<http://learningforlife.fsu.edu/ctl/explore/onlineresources/docs/Chptr8.pdf>

References:

Langer, Ellen (2003). "How Students Learn." *The National Teaching and Learning Forum* 12(2).

Meyers, C. and Jones, T. B. (1993). *Promoting Active Learning: Strategies for the College Classroom*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers.