The Office of
Adjunct Faculty & Academic Support
Programs

Adjunct Faculty Academic Calendar

October:

There are no Holiday's, Registration, or Grading Deadlines in October

Workshops:

2   Canvas: Quizzes and Surveys
Online   10:00 A.M.

12   Canvas: Conferences
Online   2:00 P.M.

19   Workshop: Helping Your Students Manage Their Time
         Noon

20   Workshop: Helping Your Students Manage Their Time
         5:00 P.M.

27   Canvas: Discussions, Groups and Peer Review
Online   10:00 A.M.

29   Canvas: Exam Importing
Online   10:00 A.M.

Register for one of these by going to:
https://appsc.svsu.edu/workshops/workshopsOffered

COVID-19 and Student Engagement

The pandemic COVID-19 has presented many challenges to the SVSU Community. This was indicated in the results of a survey sent to all students and faculty through the Provost's Office. The data from this survey indicated both groups are concerned with engagement. Faculty are concerned that their students aren't engaged, and students report problems with being engaged. In a recent edition of a list serve we follow, Howard Aldrich offered some ideas to help with engagement. One key point he makes is that students want to know that their professors care about their success and this is a trigger for engagement. Generating engagement is a simpler matter in a normal face-to-face environment where faculty can learn their students' names, reveal important information about themselves, listen carefully to what students have to say, etc. It is more challenging today because many courses have moved online and are synchronous where you might see each other through a webcam or asynchronous where you might not get to know or see anyone in the class. As well, if in a face-to-face environment only half of your face shows, and all involved must socially distance. In all instances, it is difficult to read your students' emotions and gauge their engagement. So, the following are ideas you might want to employ in upcoming classes.

In-person Classes:
- Make a virtue out of wearing a mask by following the state and University laws/rules. This shows your students that you want to keep them safe.
- Practice talking with your mask on until you feel you have learned how to be heard and understood through the mask.
- Lecture less. Whether they are hearing impaired or hearing unimpaired, your students can't see/read your lips which makes it more difficult to check their understanding of the material. Become an engaged lecturer which offers more opportunities to ask questions, show short videos or use other teaching techniques that don't require you to lecture.
- Improve your listening skills and ask your students to raise their hand if they want to make a point. That way you will know who is speaking.
- Share some information about yourself, for instance, why you selected the course goals for the class…you can also check in with the students at the start of class to see if they are struggling to learn as a result of COVID-19.

Synchronous Online Classes:
- Always show yourself in the camera even when you are sharing your PowerPoints.
- Open your class early so that you can meet with the students who have signed in early. This offers you the opportunity to hear if there are any issues with your course and it helps them get to know you.

- Be animated! Try to exaggerate your body language and tone to show that you are passionate about your discipline and the subject matter of the course.
- If your class is small try to use the gallery view so the students can see who is in the class and this will also allow you to gauge their engagement.
- However, in deciding whether to require your students to be on camera you should consider the following:
    - Your students may not have the bandwidth at home to attend class so they may be parked in the University's lot…which might cause some embarrassment.
    - Your students may have unsafe and unsupportive home environments…which might cause some embarrassment.
    - Your students may live in close quarters where housemates could be seen in the back of the picture…which might cause some embarrassment.
    - Some of your students might have body dysmorphic syndrome which may cause them to be uncomfortable being on screen.
  Optionally you might consider giving your students directions explaining how they can to insert a background on their screen or for ask them to create an avatar which could stand-in for the student.

Asynchronous Online Classes:
- Email is great if you are trying to answer students' questions. Even better is to offer your students online Office Hours through Teams, Zoom or Skype.
- If you create videos or short presentations, become a part of the presentation by video record yourself.
- If you have always used group assignments go ahead and continue the practice. But, first determine if your students have the necessary tools to do so. Also design the assignment requiring the use of multimedia but let your students decide in their groups how to execute the project. This allows the students the ability to speak with one another around a focused objective.

COVID-19 has transformed the ways we teach and the ways our students learn. Key to helping our students be successful is engagement. It is our hope that some of these suggestions will help as you and your students navigate this difficult and challenging time.

Howard Aldrich, Professor of Sociology at UNC Chapel Hill contributed two articles to the Tomorrow's Professor List Serve on September 9 and 14. The articles are titled, *Cameras and Masks: Sustaining Emotional Connections with Your Students in an Age of Covid-19* (Parts 1 and Parts 2).

Helping Your Students Manage Their Time

Besides engagement, there is another area in which our students are struggling and that is with time management. The workshop will be held through the Teams app and will be available on two different dates and times. The first will be held on Monday, October 19th at Noon. The second will be held on Tuesday, October 20th at 5:00 p.m.
 To register for this workshop please follow this link to the workshop schedule and then select Tools for Teaching from the drop down box: https://appsc.svsu.edu/workshops/workshopsOffered
On the day of the session, we will send you an appointment through Outlook with a link to the session.
Adjunct faculty are compensated $30.00 for up to five workshops each semester. We look forward to seeing you!