

Effective Online Teaching

Friday Feb 19th 2021

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Menaka Abraham

Time for a Poll

Respond by going to <https://pollev.com/covidteaching>

Background

- ❖ Materials are from the Fall teaching workshop
- ❖ Focused on 4 aspects of teaching
 - Instruction (Canvas organization, Videos)
 - Equitable learning
 - Building a sense of community
 - Online assessment

Guidelines For Main Session

Please use Chat to post any questions either publicly or privately. If posting on public chat, please keep your posts relevant to the topic being discussed

Raise hand if you have something to say that everyone can benefit from and **wait to be prompted by host**

Please keep your answers or discussions **to a minute** so that everyone can take a turn

Session Outline

- ❖ Goal #1: How to teach online effectively
 - Canvas Usage For Teaching
 - Lecture Videos
- ❖ Goal #2: Equity in online learning
 - Overcoming barriers
- ❖ Goal #3: How to build a sense of community
 - Building community
- ❖ Goal #4: Strategies for online assessment
 - Online assessment

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Answer a poll

How would you organize your canvas content so that the students can find information easily?

Answer at <https://pollev.com/covidteaching>

Ideas for Canvas Organization: A Sample SET Canvas template

A quick walkthrough of a canvas course that uses this template

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Answer a poll


Do you have any tips for lecture videos?

Answer at <https://pollev.com/covidteaching>

Ideas for Video Recordings


- Create shorter videos (20 minutes or less), if using asynchronous teaching
- Can stop and start recordings even during synchronous teaching
- YouTube [video creation tutorial](#) from Chris Marriott

Recording

Local recording 


Allow hosts and participants to record the meeting to a local file

Hosts can give participants the permission to record locally

Cloud recording 

Allow hosts to record and save the meeting / webinar in the cloud

Record active speaker with shared screen


Record gallery view with shared screen 

Record active speaker, gallery view and shared screen separately

Record an audio only file

Save chat messages from the meeting / webinar

Advanced cloud recording settings

Add a timestamp to the recording 

Ideas For Zoom Meeting Settings

Login to washington.zoom.us and navigate to Settings

- 1) Don't disable the desktop sharing if you are planning to show multiple applications. Setting is "**Disable desktop/screen share for users**" and it should be off.
- 2) Can use uwnetid as authentication to avoid zoom bombing. Setting is "**Only authenticated users can join meetings**"
- 3) Allow participants to use virtual background
- 4) Use waiting room option for Personal meetings to simulate office hours
- 5) Play and practice with the settings

Zoom Fatigue?

“Here are a few tips to combat Zoom fatigue in your online classroom:

- Don't turn on your camera all the time. Allow for a break from constant eye contact.
- Dedicate the first few minutes of the class to checking-in and getting a sense of your students' energy levels.
- Avoid multitasking. Keep your focus on the lesson plan, and not on opening other browser windows.
- Build in breaks during classes to rest your eyes, get some water, or go to the bathroom. •

Reduce onscreen stimuli:

- Put yourself out of view
- Ask everyone to use plain backgrounds
- Enable 'speaker view' instead of 'gallery view' to avoid looking at everyone the whole time.
- After class, do a stretch or grab some water to decompress. “

Screen Break - Look away for 20 seconds



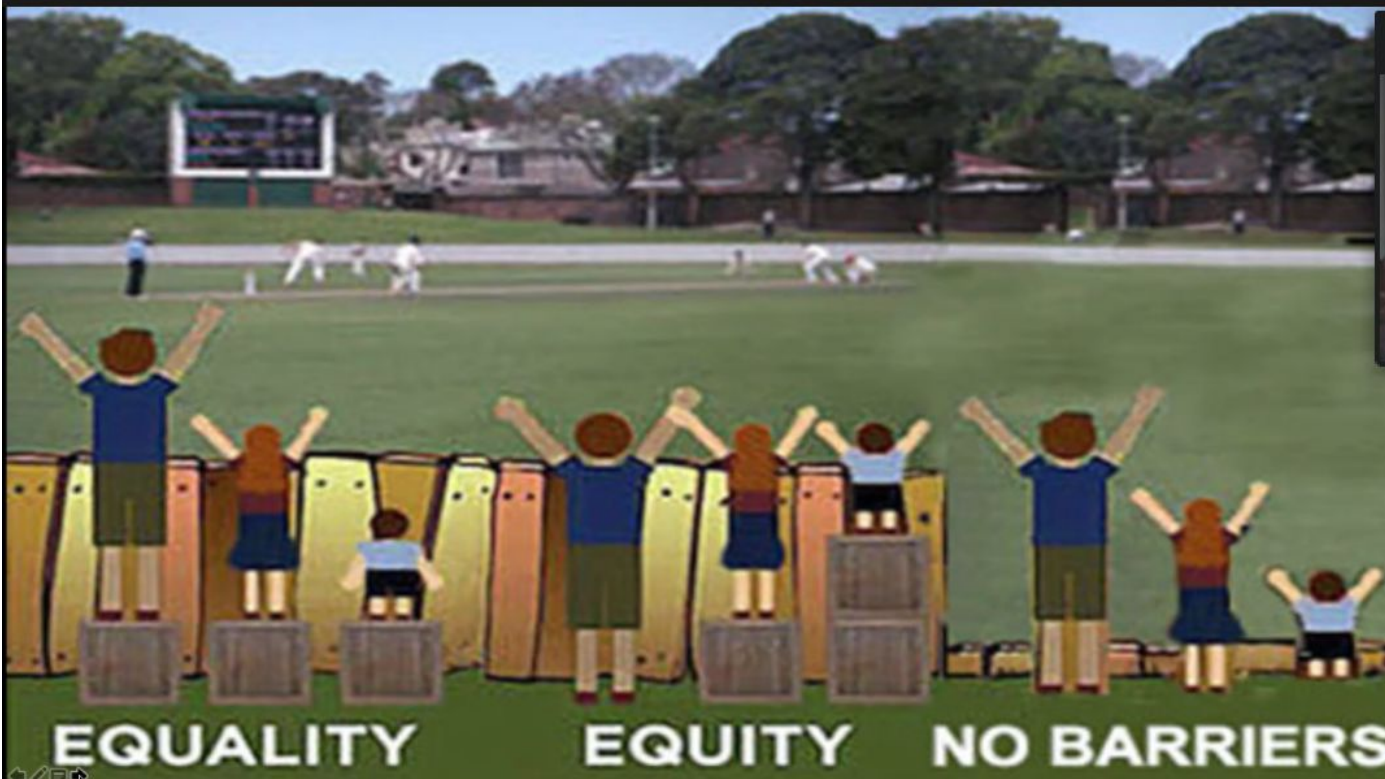
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Time for a Poll

<https://pollev.com/covidteaching>

Equity



Equity



CLEARING A PATH
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!

Equitable Teaching – Barriers

“Equity: The creation of opportunities for historically underserved populations to have equal access to and participate in educational programs that are capable of closing the achievement gaps in student success and completion” [6]

Equitable teaching is making sure that all students have the opportunity, regardless of their background and we strive to remove and prevent barriers.

What are some barriers among students?

- Home environment - Space, Privacy, Caring for others that are ill, childcare
- Technology challenges - Bandwidth, Hardware/Software
- Mental Challenges - Isolation, Depression, Anxiety about their future
- Financial insecurities - Loss of job, food and housing insecurities
- Learning challenges - Foundation skills, Study skills
- Other barriers - No sense of belonging

Tips for Equitable Teaching – Culturally Responsive Teaching

- Acknowledge diversity among students and create a welcoming space
 - A pre-survey asking about their learning style, space and what we can do to make learning happen
 - Paying attention and reaching out to students that are not submitting work and are not showing up (Canvas -> Grades -> Message who didn't submit option)
 - Providing multiple ways to learn
 - Some students prefer synchronous (Engage during the sessions)
 - Some students prefer asynchronous (Record for these)
 - Flipped classrooms with synchronous sessions for problem-solving accompanied by asynchronous videos
 - Ask for constructive feedback and respond by making changes

Tips For Equitable Teaching - In The Classroom

- Communication with the students:
 - Allow for multiple ways of communication - Zoom chat (public and private), unmute, reaction controls, poll buttons (yes, no)
 - Encourage questions and acknowledge the student that asks (and thank)
 - Consider using an anonymous poll during lecture to encourage questions
- Lecturing:
 - Vary your teaching methods and engage the students
 - Be willing to accommodate those that are working while going to school (instead of their parents) by recording lectures
 - Use Active Learning techniques during lecture
 - Build polls for interactivity (Polleverywhere integrated with Canvas or Zoom polls)
 - Use breakout rooms for discussion or use pair work to let the students engage
 - Have fun

Tips For Equitable Teaching – Individual Student Interaction

- Encourage questions and eliminate the fear of asking questions
- Hold open office hours or ad hoc office hours
- Use class communication apps like Slack or Remind (my favorite) or Piazza or Discord to communicate easily
- Hold office hours after class and/or before class
- Treat students with empathy and understanding, be graceful with weaker students in terms of skills
- How to answer questions
 - Think about the reason for the question (Lack of clarity or language barrier)
 - Answer with patience and understanding
 - Ask for guidance as to how to improve their understanding, if applicable
- Make them comfortable by using light conversation but still keep it professional
- If you don't know the answer, follow up with an email later
- Post the question and answer on discussion board (for others)

1. Practice cultural humility
2. Cultivate inclusive relationships
3. Plan lessons for a general and for your everybody
4. Use strength-based language
5. Build your own capacity (Teaching and Learning Services Modules)
 1. [Serviceshttp://www.utsa.edu/tlc/tls/Inclusive%20Classroom/index.html#/](http://www.utsa.edu/tlc/tls/Inclusive%20Classroom/index.html#/)
6. Develop and cultivate a growth mindset
7. Understand that most learning is not linear

Tips for Department Inclusivity



CSTeachingTips.org/Tips-for-Department-Inclusivity

1 Survey students regularly
to identify institution-specific growth opportunities.

We want to improve our department based upon your feedback!

2 Optimize the intro course
to be welcoming regardless of CS exposure.

You don't need prior CS experience to succeed!

3 Monitor performance patterns
to identify structures or culture with differential impact.

We should investigate why some groups have higher rates of attrition!

4 Support new pedagogies
to improve students' learning and experience.

Teachers are encouraged to adopt effective teaching practices!

5 Train faculty to respond to bias
to address toxic culture in and out of the classroom.

We are all responsible for creating a positive dept. culture!

6 Foster student community
to create effective peer mentoring programs.

Funding for snacks can be helpful for building community!

7 Show students the breadth of CS
to engage beginning students with varied interests.

CS is a broad field with connections to many other disciplines!

csteachingtips

References for Equitable Teaching

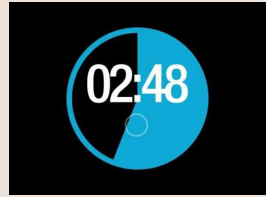
1. Equitable Classroom Resources

- a. **Johnson KMS. (2019)** Implementing inclusive practices in an active learning STEM classroom. *Adv Physiol Educ* 43: 207–210, 2019;
- b. Equity Strategies at <https://code.org/equityDocs/EquityStrategies.pdf>
- c. 3 Practices to promote equity in the classroom at <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/practices-promote-equity-in-classroom-shane-safir>

2. PR2ISM Training - Establishing an Equitable STEM Classroom Climate

3. Culturally Responsive Teaching resource at <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1124634.pdf>

Screen Break - 20 seconds



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Building Community Among The Students

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/features/community-netflix-six-seasons-cast-interviews-dan-harmon-joe-l-mchale-alison-brie-a9437721.html>



Building Community

As an instructor, list some strategies to build a sense of community in the classroom

<https://pollev.com/covidteaching>

Tips For Building Community Among The Students

- Learn your students' names and take time to get to know them
- Ice breaker during the first lecture like we did today but in small groups. A "Syllabus scavenger hunt"?
- Consider a social hour with students
- Don't pick on a specific student
- Use a communication app like Slack or Discord or Remind
- Use breakout rooms to allow interaction with fellow students during lecture
- Don't be afraid to show your human side
- Show passion and interest in what you are teaching
- Bring an outside speaker to connect them with the working world
- Be consistent in your teaching and expectations
- Be empathetic and understanding as these are unprecedented times
- Remember that our students are young and inexperienced and are struggling to navigate remote learning just like we are

Tips For Building Community Among Colleagues

- Consider a coffee hour or happy hour with colleague(s)
- Work on a project together
- Attend book club meetings
- Write a thank you email to a colleague that helped you in some way
- Mentor a new colleague or junior colleague

Some Resources For Building Community

- <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-classroom-management/a-checklist-for-building-community-in-the-college-classroom/>
- <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2020/01/07/building-community-community-college-classrooms-opinion>
- <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/creating-positive-learning-environment/inclusivity-accessibility-and-motivation/building-community-large-classes>

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Online Assessment Poll

As an instructor, list some challenges with online assessment

<https://pollev.com/covidteaching>

Tips for Assessing

- Use a “buffet” of assessments rather than relying on the plain old exams that are high-stakes
- A few other types of assessments to consider
 - Oral exams
 - Projects
 - Reports
 - Video presentations
- A great resource for designing assignments, Transparency in Teaching and Learning (TILT) - <https://tilthighered.com/tiltexamplesandresources>
 - A Math sample - <https://tilthighered.com/assets/pdffiles/Example%20M.pdf>
 - A sample from TCSS 372

Reflection activities: ask students can create blogs, journals or videos that reflect their learning.

Peer review activities: allow students to collaborate with classmates and share expertise and perspective in reviewing each others projects or papers.

Introduction videos: create a brief video introducing you to your class.

Use synchronous communication: immediacy is a critical element in social presence, and communication in real time often enhances social presence when handled well.

Current information: communicate current events, things to do that week or a summary of overall class progress on assignments or assessments at the appropriate times throughout the semester.

Debate forums: create debate forums to increase student interactions, critical thinking and reflection.

Learning choices: allow students options to complete assignments in writing, using audio or video.

Video Face-to-face connections: create opportunities for students to connect with you via real-time video to promote a virtual face-to-face connection.

Embrace untraditional environments: the pandemic may have altered where you teach and where students receive their classes. Welcome these unique and sometimes chaotic spaces.

Tips for Reducing Bias



CS Teaching Tips.org/Tips-for-Reducing-Bias

1 Make your expectations explicit

to avoid tacit assumptions within your class.

Start homework early so you have time to get help!

2 Grade anonymously

to mitigate the effect of unconscious bias.

Don't put your name in the homework!

3 Establish clear policies

to ensure students are held to the same standards.

All students receive a two-day extension.

4 Learn students' names

to enable you to engage all students equally.

That's a great question ____!

5 Acknowledge & manage your bias

to mitigate and monitor the impact of your biases.

Am I spending more time with particular students?

6 Teach students about bias

to educate your students and show you care.

Everyone has unconscious, unintentional biases!

7 Listen to students' experiences

to learn how you can create a supportive environment.

What in your classes makes you feel like you belong?

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The End

Thank you and have an effective rest of the year!