Teaching a Discussion Lab

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Women’s Studies Department: Undergraduate
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Pair and Share: `O wai kou inoa?

- Name?
- Where family from?
- What class TA for?
- What does being a TA mean to you?
- What would you like to ask about being a TA?
Essence of Teaching (CTE website)

- Inspiration
- Imagination
- Integrity

Cultivating Ho’olaulima
Handout: *Tēnā: A Learning Lifestyle* (Beniamina 2010)

- What is *Tēnā*?
  - Step 1?
  - Step 2?
  - Step 3?
  - Step 4?

- Did some of these processes sound familiar?
WS 360/ES 365: Pacific/Asian Women in Hawai‘i

Week One: Building Feminist Foundations

Keeping Culture Alive

http://powwowhawaii.com/blog/talk-sea-video/
Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio
The White House 2009

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SxQvUrjDoI
Cultivating Ho’olaulima

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head.
If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

~ Nelson Mandela
Waiauī

ʻAʻohe pau ka ʻike i ka hālau hoʻokahi.
All knowledge is not learned in just one school. One can learn from many sources. (Pukui 1983: 24)
ABC’s in Teaching

- Appealing Activities
- Blend of Humor and Wit
- Collaborative Learning, Community-Building

Add personal pedagogy and creative style to:
- Empower
- Energize
- Embolden
Kuleana: Responsibility

Day One
- Have students “claim their education” (Rich 1977)
- Contract: Syllabus
  - 2-parts
    - Student
    - Teacher
- TA: Tell them you committed making classes worthwhile attending
- Students: Commit being on time every class and participating intellectually every class (Raise your hands!)
Hanohano: Respectful

Guidelines And Expectations

CELLPHONES, COMPUTERS AND OTHER FUN TECHNO-GO-GO GADGETS... They are fun indeed but they are **NOT** to be used in our classroom. **Turn OFF** cellphones, computers, and other fun gadgets BEFORE you enter our Laulima and classroom! That means absolutely **NO** text messaging. Laptops can **ONLY** be used on days specifically designated for computer work.
Safety and Security

Teaching assistants (TAs) reserve the right to ask you to turn off your laptops, and other electronics. If we need to remind you of our classroom policies regarding the above, you will first receive ‘Yellow-Warning Card.’ The second reminder will result in your receiving ‘Technical-T’ and the third and FINAL reminder will result in FLAGRANT-T’ you will be told to respectfully leave class, and marked absent for the day. Our adhering to these class policies displays appreciation for our individual kuleana (responsibility) and collective hanohano (respect); thus creating a safe and secure environment for all (laulima).
Laulima: Reciprocity

1. Commitment to teaching and commitment to learning
2. Value and validate all voices
3. Caring for community
Wave-Breaking Activities

- Cell Phones
  - Greatest inspiration
- Dinner Plans
- My Slogan/Our Slogan
- Familiar and Unique
- Charades

- Getting to Knowt You
- Circle of Name Game
- Paper Bag Skits
- Cheers and Fears
- Syllabus Searcher

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw9K9ZxP1Ec
Discussion Time

- Give Me 5
- Wait for 6
- Positive Reinforcement
- Rule 10 to 2
- Think, Pair, Share
- Music, images, art
...then he said, “I can’t feel my legs” and then I said, “Stay with me Joel!” but it was too late. He was gone. It was the PowerPoint.
Group Activities: Hoʻolaulima

1. Clear directions
2. Time Limit
3. Goals

Roles

• Reporter
• Leader
• Note Taker
• Time Keeper
• Discussion Leader
• Writer
Jigsaw Classroom

- Divide groups 5-6 students
- Discussion question each group
- Have group present analysis and answer
- Question and Answer Session
Grading

**Grading: The First Hour.**
- Good job!
- Nice!
- Oops! Well done!

**Second Hour**
- How can you get this wrong?? I covered it like fifty times!!

**Sixth Hour**
- I don't care anymore! When will it end???

**Hour 20**
- If undergrads are the future, we're all doomed.

[Source: www.phdcomics.com]
You are ‘da Boss and ‘da Bomb!

How the Graduate TA Stole Christmas!

But whatever the reason, she sat there depressed. Grading isn’t that hard, but it still caused her stress...

For tomorrow, she knew all the Undergrads, they’d... They’d come to her Office to argue their grade!

...and then! Oh, the whining! The WHINING! Boo hoo! “I deserve more points, dude!” “I tried really hard, too!”

Then she got an idea... a really awesome idea... The TA got a wonderful, awesome idea!

What if... she stopped scoring with arguable scales? No more PARTIAL CREDIT! Let them whine! Let them wail!

WWW.COM
Surprise… the Ah ha Moment

Uh oh, here comes an undergrad to ask me a question.

What's it going to be? Her computer crashed? Her dog fainted? The homework bums her out?

Nothing would surprise me at this point...

That class was awesome!

Except that.
As a classroom community, our capacity to generate excitement is deeply affected by our interest in one another, in hearing one another’s voices, in recognizing one another’s presence.  
(hooks 1994)

Wishing you well…

E pili mau nā pōmaika‘i me ‘oe.
Discussion Question Quizzes

- Encourage, Ensure Reading text(s)
- Student writes 1 discussion question from assigned reading
- TA chooses 1 question discuss beginning class
- Counts as Quiz grade
Humor Heals

Once upon a time, in a land overseas, lived a Grad T.A., frustrated and displeased.

She’s been grading for hours and hours on end, undergrads who have little wishes to learn, but still feel compelled to pretend.

Despaired she decided to take a short break, since this was far more than she could possibly take. Lucky enough, due to web economics, she stumbled upon a suitable strip in PhD Comics.
Mahalo a nui loa.