



The Joy Shechtman Mankoff
Center for Teaching & Learning presents ...

Talking Teaching

Spring 2015

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS . . .

Talking Teaching is a series of informal discussions of teaching-related topics—suggested by faculty members—over food. Talking Teaching provides an opportunity to build community and to pause & reflect on our teaching and on our students' learning experiences.

Topics are listed below, with times and preliminary descriptions. *We are looking for discussants for this semester.* For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring a question or an idea to spark the collective exchange of ideas. Imagination, not extended preparation, is the only requirement.

Please contact Ruth Grahn (regra@conncoll.edu) if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant. We hope to see you at these events!

BALANCING ATHLETICS & ACADEMICS: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD, RINK, POOL, COURT, & BEYOND PART OF THE "TALKING TEACHING TOO" SERIES

FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY, 11:50 AM TO 2:00 PM

HOOD DINING ROOM

A large number of our students are scholar-athletes who are deeply engaged in both academic and athletic pursuits. A core value of the New England Small College Athletic Conference is that we are "committed first and foremost to academic excellence and believe that our athletic programs must always support our educational mission." There are times, however, when a student experiences conflicts between their role as a student and their role as an athlete. This discussion will focus on the strategies that students, faculty, and coaches can use to help balance our campus's academic and athletic priorities.

As part of a new CTL series called "Talking Teaching Too," this event will include student participants, and will emphasize the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty members.

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE: INSIGHTS FROM STUDENT LIFE PART OF THE "TALKING TEACHING TOO" SERIES

THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY, 11:50 AM TO 2:00 PM

HOOD DINING ROOM

There has been much discussion over the past two years about the First-Year experience in the classroom, which has culminated in a new first year seminar program with team advising to be fully implemented next fall. How does this new program intersect with our students' residential experience? This discussion is an opportunity to share ideas with our colleagues in Student Life, who support the academic mission with the help of student Housefellows and Floor Governors.

As part of a new CTL series called "Talking Teaching Too," this event will include student participants, and will emphasize the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty members.

CURRICULAR reVISION

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AND THE STUDY OF WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY, 11:50 AM TO 2:00 PM

HOOD DINING ROOM

How can we best advance the college's commitment to inclusive excellence? What roles can language study and cross-cultural learning play in this endeavor? In this discussion we will hear about the ongoing work of the Inclusive Excellence Working Group, and how inclusive excellence can be infused throughout the curriculum. Members of the Language Caucus and the Mellon Initiative on Global Education will discuss how linguistic and cultural knowledge can help students build life-long capacities to empathize, communicate, and collaborate with others. They will present a new vision of language study, showing how the ability to understand others and to engage local-global communities across spectrums of difference is foundational to inclusive excellence. We will examine how the learning of world languages, present and past, fosters modes of critical cultural understanding that recognize self-other relationships as shaped by power, privilege, ethnicity, race, and social and national locations.

Co-sponsored by the Inclusive Excellence Working Group, the Language Caucus, the Mellon Initiative on Global Education, FSCC & EPC.

CURRICULAR reVISION

CONNCOURSES AND INTEGRATIVE STRANDS

MONDAY, 2 MARCH, 11:50 AM TO 2:00 PM

HOOD DINING ROOM

What are ConnCourses and Integrative Strands and how will they fit together in the curricular revision? Members of the ConnCourse pilot and the Integrative Strands working group will lead a discussion of the current status of their work. This discussion will allow faculty to both hear the current status and to share ideas and feedback with the groups as we move forward with curricular revision. *Co-sponsored by FSCC & EPC.*

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AT HOME & ABROAD

THURSDAY, 26 MARCH, 11:50 AM TO 2:00 PM

HOOD DINING ROOM

What do we mean by "global/local engagement," one of the guiding principles of our new general education program? What is implied in the conjoined construct of the global/local, and how might a shared vision of global/local engagement shape our new curriculum? How is this type of engagement different from service learning and volunteer work? During our discussion, we will explore the kinds of intellectual groundwork that need to be laid in order for students to approach co-curricular opportunities (working with community partners in New London, domestic and international internships, study away) as forms of global/local engagement. We will also consider the kinds of structures—both curricular and co-curricular—that we can put into place to encourage critical reflection on those experiences. *Co-sponsored by the Mellon Initiative on Global Education.*

DIGITAL LITERACY

TUESDAY, 7 APRIL, 11:50 AM to 2:00 PM

HOOD DINING ROOM

As smartphones and other digital devices proliferate, it is easy to regard this generation of college students as digital "natives," attuned to the affordances, limitations, and considerations for applying digital technologies in their professional lives. But is this assumption valid? And in what ways are students versed in the application of digital technologies to college life? We will explore effective practices that leverage digital technologies to solve pedagogical challenges and deepen student understanding of course material. Join Connecticut College faculty and staff in an important conversation about student digital literacy, digital accessibility, and digital inequalities in the classroom and beyond. *Co-sponsored by the Technology Fellows Program & Information Services.*