Teaching for umami: Savoury learning experiences

By Tonya Davidson, Instructor II, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

My first year teaching a third-year qualitative methods course at Carleton went all right. It was a small class and I assigned some challenging readings, attempting to pair theoretical and methodological how-to readings with demonstrations of those same qualitative methods in practice.

While I thought the course went ok, my student evaluations were not entirely positive. They were ok, but not great. One student simply commented, “meh.”

Unfortunately, my first response to the feedback was defensiveness. I hypothesized that the students didn’t enjoy the quantity of reading required or that methods courses were always a drag (at my last institution, the one time I taught qualitative methods I also received my lowest student evaluation scores). And I just harrumphed and carried on.
Then I took a course on experiential teaching through the EDC. It was a great course; the instructors clearly laid out the why and how of incorporating experiential learning opportunities, large and small, into any course.

Inspired, I radically re-wrote my qualitative methods course. Read more.

**Blended Learning Initiative call for participation**

Are you a faculty member or contract instructor who is interested in exploring the impact blended learning can have on the teaching and learning experience? Then join fellow like-minded educators in our new Carleton University Blended Learning Initiative (BLI).

The EDC will fund a maximum of 10 grants in this call. We are seeking applicants from all faculties and a variety of disciplines. Acceptance into the (one year) Blended Learning Initiative means that in 2018-19 you will:

- receive $5,000 to support your project (e.g. course support, professional development, related scholarship)
- re-design your course to incorporate blended learning strategies
- meet regularly with an instructional design team
- access teaching and educational technology consultations
- participate in a monthly peer-driven Community of Practice (CoP)
- share your experiences at a blended learning showcase event
- develop recommendations for nurturing blended learning at Carleton

Read the full call for participation here.

Applications must be submitted to the EDC no later than 4 p.m. on May 31, 2018. Direct questions and send completed applications to: Jaymie Koroluk, Assistant Director EDC. Successful applicants will be notified by July 15, 2018 and participation in the initiative is expected to begin late September.

**Enhancing the classroom experience at Carleton**

as useful resources for other students or for the public? Join us for a discussion of open pedagogy, the benefits and challenges of non-disposable assessments, and their connections to experiential learning.

**BigBlueButton - Online Classes and Virtual Office Hours**

*May 17, 10 AM - 12 PM*

BigBlueButton is a web conferencing tool that allows for synchronous teaching and learning at a distance. Learn how to set up a session, share content and facilitate high quality online webinars.

**Welcome to My Classroom: Emotional Learners**

*May 31, 11:30 AM - 1 PM*

Join Ali Arya, Associate Dean (Planning and Awards), FGPA, to share your experiences and thoughts on the subject of emotional learners. We'll review the body of research on the subject, talk about our own practices, and consider strategies to provide a more emotionally balanced education.

**Fostering**
Over the next few months, IMS will be starting its annual summer classroom ever-greening program, with a focus on updating older classrooms that have outdated technology. These updates will increase the compatibility and consistency in technology throughout the classrooms, making the instructor experience more seamless and efficient. It will also help enhance the student learning experience as instructors will have more modernized technological tools at their disposal.

IMS will also continue to implement the Resource Management Suite (RMS) that was rolled out earlier this year. This will allow the IMS team to detect and diagnose classroom technology issues remotely. The system will help reduce the likelihood that instructors will need to make service calls and optimize the troubleshooting process, which will ultimately reduce classroom downtime.

We hope that these changes will make for a more interactive and streamlined experience in Carleton's classrooms. If you have any questions or feedback about these changes, please contact Craig Gauthier, Assistant Director, IMS.

Summer hours for Classroom Technology Support

The Classroom Technology Support (CTS) office in D283 Loeb will be adjusting our hours over the summer months.

Starting Monday, May 7 and continuing through until the end of August (while classes are in session), CTS will be open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Our hours on Fridays will remain unchanged - from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Don't forget!

SoTL grant - There's still time to submit your application for a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Grant. Applications are due May 30. To find out more about this and the other teaching grants, visit the TLS website.