



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

# Talking Teaching

## Fall 2017

### 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 breakfast, lunch or afternoon “tea”. Talking Teaching provides an opportunity to build community and to stop & 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 these events.** For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring a question or an idea to spark the collective exchange of ideas. Interest in the topic, not extended preparation, is the only requirement to be a discussant.

Please contact Dave Chavanne ([dchavann@conncoll.edu](mailto:dchavann@conncoll.edu)) or Tanya Schneider ([tschneid@conncoll.edu](mailto:tschneid@conncoll.edu)) if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant. We hope to see you at these events!

## Helping Students Read Effectively: In Print & Online

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

Reading is a significant part of our students’ learning on campus, and much of this work takes place outside of class. How can we guide student efforts to make sure that they are reading effectively and preparing successfully to reflect upon their reading during class? How do reading online and in print differ, and how can we teach students to read carefully in different media? This joint session with Instructional Technology will help us all consider methods that colleagues are already implementing and other approaches that we may want to share with our students.

Ahead of our discussion, we recommend you read Michael Larkin’s thoughtful blog post, [To Read Well on Screens, Change Your Mindset](https://culturemulching.com/2017/03/15/to-read-well-on-screens-change-your-mindset/) (<https://culturemulching.com/2017/03/15/to-read-well-on-screens-change-your-mindset/>).

*Discussants include* Lyndsay Bratton, Anthony Graesch, Laura Little, Jessica McCullough, Marie Ostby, Ari Rotramel, Melissa Schafner, & Derek Turner.

## Checking in on ConnCourses

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER, 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

There are twenty ConnCourses being offered this semester and more than forty that have been approved. This important component of our new Connections curriculum offers exciting opportunities for both faculty and students making connections across areas of the liberal arts. There may also be distinctive new challenges in teaching them. Faculty who have been involved in developing and teaching ConnCourses will report on their experiences. This session will also be an opportunity to reflect on how these courses are shaping our curriculum and students’ academic engagement at the College.

## Effective Implementation of Rubrics: A Discussion & Workshop

THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

Many faculty members use rubrics to clarify their expectations to students and/or to make grading easier. Rubrics can also be an effective and efficient way to offer feedback. In this session, we will hear from faculty across various disciplines who employ rubrics in their

teaching and IS staff who are experts in the technology that can be used to create and implement rubrics. How much detail should we provide students about our methods of evaluation & grading? What successes have colleagues had with rubrics, and on what types of assignments have they been especially useful? How can we use Moodle to develop rubrics? Participants in this workshop are encouraged to bring examples of rubrics that you have used and think have been effective or an assignment that might benefit from one, and we will work together to craft new rubrics.

## **Exploring the Intersection between Student Evaluations & Effective Pedagogy**

THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

Student evaluations play an important role in how we are evaluated as teachers. In this session, we will have an honest and wide-ranging conversation that analyzes student evaluations from a variety of perspectives. How can we effectively use student evaluations—both the All Campus Evaluation (ACE) and other types—to improve our teaching? In what ways are student evaluations biased or otherwise limiting? What can we do to remove some of the anxiety surrounding evaluations and make them as useful as possible to improve our teaching—and student learning? How are evaluations used by individuals or departments for mid-semester feedback, and what experiences (positive and negative) have faculty members had with mid-semester evaluations? Please join us if you are interested in hearing what your colleagues have to say about student evaluations.

## **Framing & Advising the Sophomore Year**

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER, 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM

BLAUSTEIN 203

Sophomore year is a pivotal period for our students' academic careers at Connecticut College. Not only do they make the critical choice of major declaration, but in our Connections program, they also make the choice of applying to a center or declaring a pathway. This session focuses on how to help students approach these important decisions and how to provide them with information and guidance that will support their progress through our curriculum. Participants will include a selection of department chairs, program directors, center directors, pathway coordinators, and deans.

## **Teaching & Advising Our First-Year Seminars**

A DISCUSSION FOR FACULTY & STAFF ADVISORS

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER, 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM

ERNST in BLAUSTEIN

First-Year Seminars (FYSs) continue to be a key component in our Connections curriculum. In our ongoing effort to improve the teaching and advising of FYSs, what are the successes and challenges? How can we continue to refine the teaching, team advising, and student learning in these important courses? This session, for both FYS Faculty and Staff advisors, will provide the opportunity for those teaching and advising an FYS to share their experiences with each other and other interested faculty & staff members. During part of the session we will divide into two groups, allowing faculty and staff to focus on issues particularly relevant to their roles.

## **Integrating Study Away with Studies at Conn**

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER, NOON to 1:30 PM

HOOD in BLAUSTEIN

Fostering global citizenship is a key component of our college mission and values. To bring this into our teaching, faculty and staff have been considering ways that we can integrate study away experiences with learning on campus. Initiatives include the development of new pre-departure and re-entry courses, workshops for majors, and intentional design of assignments around study away in existing courses in the major or pathway. In this discussion, we will hear from some of those who have been developing and implementing these approaches as well as consider additional possibilities.

***Willing to serve as a Discussant for one of these events? Interested in attending any or all?***

Please contact Dave Chavanne ([dchavann@conncoll.edu](mailto:dchavann@conncoll.edu)) or Tanya Schneider ([tschneid@conncoll.edu](mailto:tschneid@conncoll.edu)).