

**Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center
Instructor Development Opportunities
For Humanities and Social Sciences Building Flexible Classrooms**

Over the summer of 2012, the Humanities and Social Science building (HSS) will be renovated and classrooms refitted as “flexible classrooms” with node chairs, ceramic boards, and a wall mounted Smart board. These rooms will look very different from the current rooms; the new HSS classrooms can enhance teaching and learning through active engagement and group learning. The University Provost has requested that the Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center provide support to faculty and GTAs. This instructor support will consist of a series of facilitated teaching faculty dialogues this spring, followed by a fall 2012 mid-term session to share ideas and address questions and concerns during the semester instructors are teaching.

Faculty and GTAs who regularly teach in HSS or anticipate teaching in HSS during the 2012-2013 academic year are strongly encouraged to participate in one or more of these teaching and learning dialogues. Instructors who participate in at least one of the dialogues will have priority in HSS classroom scheduling. Participants will also be offered a technology tool of their choice to help with their course preparation and delivery, such as: Doceri iPad remote console for Windows or Mac client; Goodpoint stylus for iPad; remote presentation device (“laptop clicker”); 32 GB flashdrive.

The Tenn TLC is offering **seven faculty dialogues**, each with a slightly different focus, to meet the differing needs and teaching plans of faculty in diverse disciplines. Sessions will be offered in a flexible classroom in order to provide experiences with the setting. Please choose the option below that best fits your past experiences with active, group learning in your discipline.

- **Active Learning in Large Lecture Classes:** For instructors from all disciplines who teach larger lecture classes (60+) and want to incorporate more active learning elements into their course structure. There will be one large lecture room in HSS with node chairs.
- **Active Learning in Flexible Classrooms:** For instructors from all disciplines with limited experience in interactive/active learning course design and management, or for those who wish to further explore the learning potential of the 35 – 45 capacity HSS flexible classrooms.
- **Group-based Learning:** For instructors from all disciplines who are currently using group-based learning in their courses and wish to explore a wider range of group learning strategies – from casual to team learning – in their courses. Participants will explore detailed topics such as examining the design for student learning outcomes, monitoring progress and troubleshooting, and assessing. Past experiences will provide the grounds for conversation.
- **Language Instruction:** For language instructors at all course levels to explore the learning potential of flexible classrooms with regards to language learning activities.
- **Mathematics Instruction:** For mathematics instructors teaching in flexible classrooms to explore appropriate practices.
- **Writing to learn / Writing Intensive Courses:** For instructors from all disciplines facilitating courses with a substantial written communication component to explore the learning potential of flexible classrooms with regards to written activities.
- **Student Presentations:** For instructors in communications courses or courses with a public speaking component who seek to further their understanding of and implementation of student presentations (and how both individual and group, formal and informal public speaking can enhance the teaching, learning, and interaction in their courses).

The 1.5 hour sessions will be held in 129 Hodges Library beginning in late March and continuing through the end of the semester. Sessions will also be offered during May and in August/September as requested. The number of sessions will be determined by instructor demand. The schedule of sessions for March and April:

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| Monday March 26 | 12:30 – 2:00 | Active Learning in Flexible Classrooms |
| Thursday March 29 | 11:30 – 1:00 | Mathematics Instruction |
| Friday March 30 | 9:00 – 10:30 | Group-based Learning |
| Monday April 2 | 10:00 – 11:30 | Active Learning in Large Lecture Classes |
| Tuesday April 3 | 3:30 – 5:00 | Language Instruction |
| Wednesday April 4 | 9:00 – 10:30 | Writing Focus/Intensive Courses |
| Friday April 6 | 10:00 – 11:30 | Student Presentation |
| Wednesday April 11 | 10:00 – 11:30 | Mathematics Instruction |
| Thursday April 12 | 3:30 – 5:00 | Active Learning in Flexible Classrooms |
| Friday April 13 | 11:00 – 12:30 | Group-based Learning |
| Tuesday April 17 | 12:00 – 1:30 | Active Learning in Flexible Classrooms |
| Wednesday April 18 | 11:30 – 1:00 | Language Instruction |
| Friday April 20 | 10:00 – 11:30 | Active Learning in Flexible Classrooms |
| Monday April 23 | 12:30 – 2:00 | Active Learning in Large Lecture Classes |
| Wednesday April 25 | 11:30 – 1:00 | Writing Focus/Intensive Courses |
| Thursday April 26 | 11:00 - 12:30 | Student Presentation |
| Friday April 27 | 11:30 – 1:00 | Active Learning in Flexible Classrooms |

Register for workshops at: <http://tenntlc.utk.edu/hss-flexible-classrooms-information-and-scheduling/>

Individual Faculty Consultations and Classroom Observations: The Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center offers confidential consultations and classroom observations on request. Faculty are encouraged to continue their development of interactive teaching and learning strategies through individual consultations with Tenn TLC staff. For an appointment, please email tenntlc@utk.edu.

Mid-term Sessions: During the semester in which the instructor is teaching, instructors will meet to assess their progress, share ideas, and allow facilitators to address questions and concerns and offer further support as needed. Sessions will be scheduled at numerous times in early October 2012 and early March 2013. A schedule of sessions will be posted on the Tenn TLC website (<http://tenntlc.utk.edu/>), and program participants will be notified by email.

Smartboard Training: Most HSS classrooms will have the instructor's podium replaced by an equipment stack in a corner of the room and a wall-mounted Smartboard. Training in the use of these technologies will be provided on an ongoing scheduled and by-request basis by Office of Information Technology Instructional Support. Dates and registration for these training sessions is available at: <https://oit.utk.edu/Training/instructor-led/instructor/Pages/default.aspx>

Program Assessment: Before the mid-term session, instructors will ask students to complete a formal assessment. The assessment will reflect the degree to which instructors are adopting basic, interactive pedagogies in the flexible format. Other assessments could include end of semester comments (instructors will be encouraged to collect and report comments), direct observations, and student focus groups.