

Special-Interest Groups for Faculty

The Center for Teaching and Learning invites you to join any of the Special-Interest Groups listed below. The topics range from teaching to research, not to forget opportunities for socializing. We think that faculty will enjoy the company of colleagues from different disciplines for informal meetings once a month. Please let us know if you are interested in any of these topics. E-mail the contact person for the respective group and join us for stimulating discussions that might even develop into a collaborative project for some of the participants.

Topics (in alphabetical order) include:

1. **Instructional technology/Online teaching**

(meets 2nd Friday of the month in Library 349. Next meeting: Nov. 13, 12-1:30pm)

Contact Person: Angela Velez a-velez4@neiu.edu

A brown-bag series to discuss and showcase new tools, approaches, and ideas. Besides faculty, CTL-members and maybe members from University Computing will participate.

2. **Interdisciplinary learning & teaching**

(meets one Friday per month at the CTL, Library 310. Next meeting: Nov. 13, 1-2:30pm)

Contact Person: Edmund Hansen e-hansen@neiu.edu

Faculty interested in issues of teaching and learning across disciplines meet to discuss strategies for integrative and interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship.

Reading: R.J. Sternberg, "Interdisciplinary Problem-Based Learning: An Alternative to Traditional Majors and Minors." http://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/le-wi08/le-wi08_inter_prob.cfm

3. **Scholarly writing**

(The activities room of the Center for Academic Writing, Library 467, is reserved for this group every Friday morning, 10am-12noon)

Contact Person: Kate Hahn mk-hahn@neiu.edu

Open to all faculty who wish to have a space to work on their scholarly writing. The group uses the CAW (Library 467) for individual work, group work, and the occasional speaker. The space is reserved for faculty use only during this time. Come to do some work without the distractions of home or office. Come to collaborate. (Come to commiserate!). The group is informal in nature and is still brainstorming about how the time and space can be used to best support faculty in their scholarly writing work. For example, we are exploring having occasional speakers on topics such as resources to help you in your research and writing, use of LiveText, and grant writing. We are also planning to have writing supplies and donuts on hand. Please see the NEIUpport Group titled "Scholarly Writing" under the Faculty and Academic Departments heading in NEIUpport Groups.

4. **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)**
 (meets one Friday per month at CTL, Library 310. Next meeting: Nov. 13, 10:30am-12noon)
 Contact Person: Edmund Hansen e-hansen@neu.edu
Faculty identify relevant research and discuss study designs that would address their questions regarding issues and practices in their teaching
Reading: Vanderbilt Ctr. f. Teaching: "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning"
http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/resources/teaching_resources/reflecting/sotl.htm

5. **Socializing**
 (meets either on or off-campus)
 Contact Person: Edmund Hansen e-hansen@neu.edu
After an initial meeting at the CTL, groups of faculty who have non-academic interests in common, e.g. parents of young children, faculty with particular hobbies, international faculty, etc., establish their own meeting place and time and provide the CTL with contact info for new people to join the group.

6. **Teaching undergraduate students**
 (meets one Friday per month at CTL, Library 310. First meeting: Oct. 16, 10:30am-12noon)
 Contact Person: Edmund Hansen e-hansen@neu.edu
Faculty who are teaching Gen-Ed courses discuss what it takes to engage our undergraduate populations in challenging learning experiences. Participants might take turns in presenting promising teaching & curriculum approaches from own experience or the literature.

7. **Understanding & developing an inclusive campus climate**
 (meets one Friday per month at CTL, Library 310. First meeting: Oct. 16, 1-2:30pm)
 Contact Person: Edmund Hansen e-hansen@neu.edu
Faculty discuss and develop strategies and tools to facilitate inclusion on campus, both in and outside the classroom. Might involve also members from Student Affairs.

A quick reminder about our special **Blackboard Training for Novices**. There is a full schedule of workshops available next week. If you are interested, please join us. Sessions are conducted by either Mark Raskinski or Angela Velez in LIB 349:

M, 10/19: 9-10am	T, 10/20: 2:30-3:30	W, 10/21: 4-5pm	R, 10/22: 5-6pm	F, 10/23: 1-2pm
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These sessions are for those of you who have not used Blackboard before. We will just go over the basics. Please **bring an electronic copy of your syllabi** and any other key documents you want to put online, such as your weekly assignments with instructions. We will help you put these documents into the Blackboard shells that have already been created for your courses and show you how to use the simple Communication functions available in Blackboard. By the end of the workshop, you will have a functioning Blackboard site to help you stay in touch with your students.

All CTL Bulletins are available on our website at: www.neu.edu/~ctl/