

# SOC 300: The Art and Joy of Teaching

Francine Stephens

Spring 2022

E-mail: [fis@stanford.edu](mailto:fis@stanford.edu)

Web: [canvas.stanford.edu/courses/156163](https://canvas.stanford.edu/courses/156163)

Office Hours: TH 10:00-11:30 a.m. or by appointment

Class Hours: TUE 09:45-11:45 a.m.

Office: McClatchy Hall 30F

Class Room: 200-124

---

## Course Description

This class will prepare you to teach Stanford students as a TA or instructor. The philosophy of this class is that teaching is both an art to learn and cultivate, and a source of great joy and personal meaning during your graduate career and beyond. In this class, we will cover key teaching skills and abilities such as leading an engaging discussion section, building an inclusive classroom, delivering a lecture, and juggling teaching logistics and competing demands. Throughout the quarter, we will explore different philosophies and ways of teaching so that you can begin to cultivate and employ your own teaching style.

## Course Objectives

1. Acquire strategies for inclusive and equitable teaching.
2. Develop and effectively teach from lesson plans.
3. Assess students' learning efficiently and effectively.
4. Assess your own teaching and strive for continuous improvement.

## Course Components

### Teaching Moments

In this course, we will take the opportunity to learn about teaching by *doing* some teaching in-class or planning for a lesson that we might teach. There will be 5 points in the quarter where you will engage in a teaching moment. A teaching moment is a moment in which you are actively teaching others or discussing how you would hypothetically teach others.

*Teaching Moment #1:* This will be a *Microteaching session* for which you will prepare 5 minutes of teaching on a topic of your choice. During class-time, you will teach the class and then afterward the group will give feedback to identify strengths and weaknesses. After debriefing with the class, you will write a 1-paragraph reflection about the experience and your key takeaways.

*Teaching Moment #2:* You will prepare a 1-page lesson plan for a *discussion* that you could potentially use for a 50-minute section. Select a topic from the topic-bank on Canvas and then decide

the content that you would use. Submit your plans to Canvas, and be prepared to discuss them in class.

*Teaching Moment #3:* You will prepare a 1-page lesson plan for a *lecture* that you could potentially use for a 50-minute section. Select a topic from the topic-bank and then decide the content that you would use. Submit your plans to Canvas, and be prepared to discuss them in class.

*Teaching Moment #4:* You will prepare a 1-page lesson plan for an *activity* that you could potentially use for a 50-minute section. Select a topic from the topic-bank and then decide the content that you would use. Submit your plans to Canvas, and be prepared to discuss them in class.

*Teaching Moment #5:* For the final teaching moment, you will *teach a 10-minute version of one of the lessons that you submitted for teaching moments #2 - #4*. During our final class meeting you will teach for 10 minutes and your teaching will be filmed. Students in the course will play the role of students in your section. After ward, you will independently review the video of your teaching and evaluate yourself and submit a brief reflection with key takeaways from your experience.

### **Grading Assignment**

To help prepare you for grading, you will be given some exams from an undergraduate sociology course to grade. You will design a grading rubric and grade three student exams. You will be assessed on the thoroughness of your rubric and whether you apply it in the comments and grades that you give.

### **TA Observation**

Observing a TA lead a section will provide you with some sense of what running a section is like. Contact a current TA and make arrangements to attend one of their sections. Write a 2-3 paragraph reflection on your observations. Explain what you learned, what surprised you, and the questions that your observation prompted about teaching. You can conduct your observation any time before Week 9 when the reaction is due.

## **Course Policy**

### **Grading Policy**

- 20% of your grade will be determined by participation in class meetings.
- 60% of your grade will be determined by completing 5 teaching moments. Teaching Moment #1 is worth 10%. Teaching Moments #2-#4 are worth 10% each. The final Teaching Moment (#5) is worth 20%.
- 10% of your grade will be determined by completing the grading assignment.
- 10% of your grade will be determined by observing a current TA in the department and submitting a reflection of your observations.

### **Late Work**

All assignments and due dates have been posted on Canvas to help you plan. Please double check due dates and times. I understand that other priorities arise and can result in a late assignment submission. For this class, you are allowed 3 “late days” for your assignments. The “3 late days”

policy means that there would be no penalty if you submitted one of the assignments three days late, or three of the assignments one day late. After those 3 “late days” are used up, you will be docked on the following system:

- 1 day late: 25% of the maximum allowable marks
- 2 days late: 50% of the maximum allowable marks
- 3+ days late: 75% of the maximum allowable marks

## Attendance Policy

Each of you are important to the in-class discussion and student learning, so missed classes will be reflected in your participation grade. I understand that unexpected circumstances occur and attendance in-person or on Zoom may not always be possible. **If you are unable to make one of our class meetings, please contact me in advance and we will work out alternative arrangements.** Only missed classes that are not made up will impact your participation grade.

## Course Privacy

Two of our class meetings are scheduled to take place on Zoom. These are marked in the class schedule, so that you can plan accordingly. For these classes we will adhere to the university’s course privacy policy. The [university’s policy around recording and broadcasting courses](#) states that students may not audio or video record class meetings without permission from the instructor (and guest speakers, when applicable). If the instructor grants permission or if the teaching team posts videos themselves, students may keep recordings only for personal use and may not post recordings on the Internet, or otherwise distribute them. These policies protect the privacy rights of instructors and students, and the intellectual property and other rights of the university. Students who need lectures recorded for the purposes of an academic accommodation should contact the [Office of Accessible Education](#).

## The Honor Code

It is expected that you and I will follow Stanford’s Honor Code in all matters relating to this online course. You are encouraged to meet and exchange ideas with your classmates while studying and working on assignments, but you are individually responsible for your own work. You are not permitted to copy or otherwise reference another student’s work. Compromising your academic integrity may lead to serious consequences, including (but not limited to) one or more of the following: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, disciplinary probation, suspension from the university, or dismissal from the university.

You, as students, are responsible for understanding the University’s Honor Code policy and must make proper use of citations of sources for writing papers, creating, presenting, and performing their work, taking examinations, and doing research. For tips on how to uphold the honor code in an online learning environment, read these recommendations. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact me.

## Academic Accommodations

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an

Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. Contact the [OAE](#) at 650-723-1066.

## Mental Well-Being

As a student, you may experience a range of other challenges that can cause barriers to learning. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily life. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus here: [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#). Within the department, you can also contact your Wellness Information Network for Graduate Students (WINGS) representatives: Amy Johnson ([aljohnson@stanford.edu](mailto:aljohnson@stanford.edu)) and Cat Sanchez ([catsan@stanford.edu](mailto:catsan@stanford.edu)).

## Class Schedule

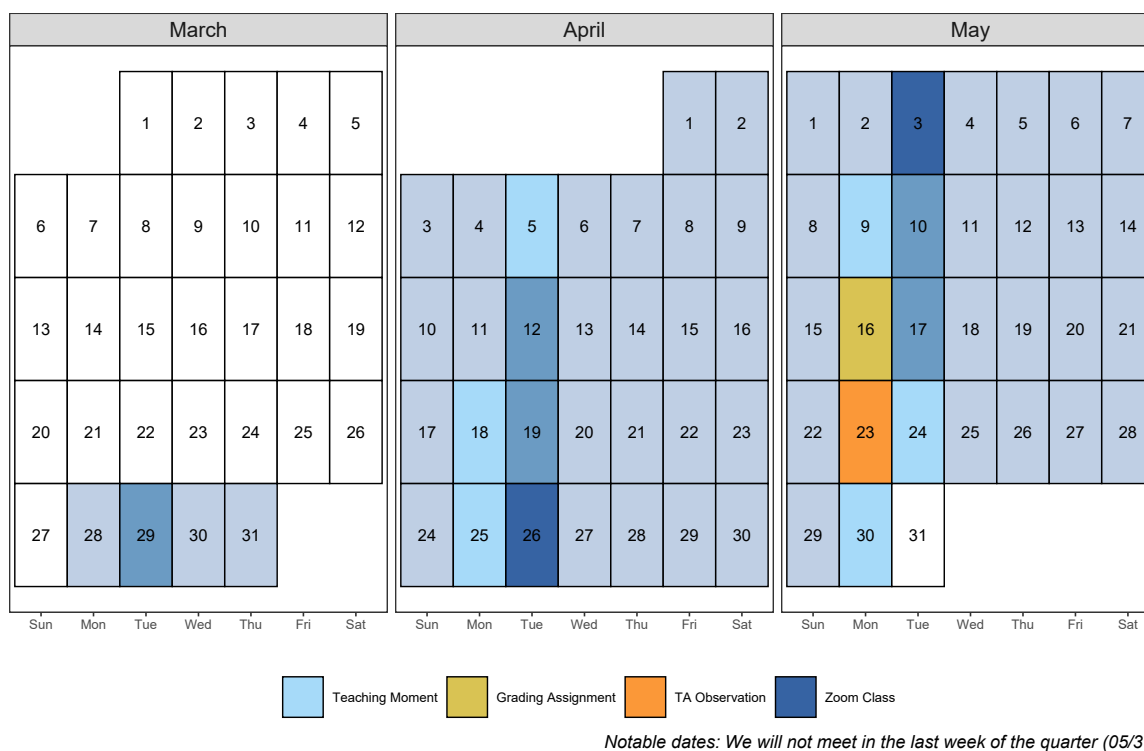


Figure 1: A Class Calendar for SOC300, Spring 2022.

## Week 01, 03/29: Syllabus Day

In Class:

- Introductions
- Discuss syllabus & course assignments

## **Week 02, 04/05: Microteaching**

Before Class:

- Prepare microteaching demonstration (5 minutes)

In Class:

- Microteaching Demonstrations & Feedback

## **Week 03, 04/12: Lesson Planning & Learner Centered Teaching**

Before Class:

- Submit microteaching reflection to Canvas by Monday 4/11 at 11:59 pm
- Watch Diane Lam's video on [backward design](#) (7 min)
- Read Fink, 2005 "Integrated Course Design"
- Read Stanford CTL's ["Introduction to Bloom's Taxonomy"](#)

In Class:

- Applying learner-centered teaching to section
- Review Lesson Plans

## **Week 04, 04/19: Leading Engaging Classroom Discussions**

Before Class:

- Submit discussion teaching plan to Canvas by Monday 4/18 at 11:59 pm
- Read Tanner, 2013 "Structure Matters: Twenty-one Teaching Strategies to Promote Student Engagement and Cultivate Classroom Equity"
- Read Cashin (2011) "Effective Classroom Discussions"

In Class:

- Discuss active learning & facilitating Discussion Strategies
- Discuss teaching plans: Discussion

## **Week 05, 04/26: Lecturing & Running Labs [ZOOM CLASS]**

Before Class:

- Submit lecturing/labs teaching plan to Canvas by Monday 4/25 at 11:59 pm
- Read Cashin (2010) "Effective Lecturing"

In Class:

- Discuss strategies for lecturing & facilitating labs
- Discuss teaching plans: Lecture/Lab

## **Week 06, 05/03: Assessments & Grading, Part I [ZOOM CLASS]**

Before Class:

- Read Schinske & Tanner, 2014 "Teaching More by Grading Less (or Differently)"
- Read Wright, "Assessment and Grading (Evaluation)"

In Class:

- Discuss grading strategies
- Review example rubrics
- Discuss grading assignment

### **Week 07, 05/10: Active Learning & Leading In-Class Activities**

Before Class:

- Post at least 2 questions for the faculty panel to Canvas by **Friday 5/6 at 11:59 pm**
- Submit activity teaching plan to Canvas by Monday 5/9 at 11:59 pm
- Read Millis, 2014 “Active Learning Strategies in Face-to-Face Courses”

In Class:

- Discuss activity teaching plans
- Faculty Panel

### **Week 08, 05/17: Assessments & Grading, Part II**

Before Class:

- Post at least 2 questions for the student TA panel to Canvas by **Friday 5/13 at 11:59 pm**
- Submit grading assignment to Canvas by Monday 5/16 at 11:59 pm

In Class:

- Discuss grading assignments
- Discuss teaching self-assessment strategies
- Student TA panel

### **Week 09, 05/24: Final Teaching Moment Presentation**

Before Class:

- Submit TA observation reflection to Canvas by Monday 5/23 at 11:59 pm
- Prepare Final Teaching Moment (10 min)

In Class:

- Final Teaching Moment Demonstrations & Feedback

### **Week 10, 05/31: No Class**

Before Class:

- Submit self-assessment of final teaching moment to Canvas by Monday 5/30 at 11:59 pm

In Class:

- No class meeting.