#### **Classroom Observation Forms**

Classroom Observations can be focused on a wide variety of topics. Here are some suggestions on how you can use these forms to both brainstorm what sorts of concepts to include in observations, and to focus your observations.

- Try using a different form each time you observe a class, either at UA, in a MOOC, or by watching a separate online lecture. You may choose to just use one or two pages of some of the longer forms, and focus on particular areas of interest (for example, just sections on teacher-student rapport or teaching strategies).
- Try using different types of forms for the same style of class (one open ended, one a checklist, for example).
- Try using the same form on two very different classes (maybe an undergraduate statistics class and an advanced engineering class).
- Review the forms and choose one in advance of your observation. Leave yourself time to read it through somewhat thoroughly so you can still focus on the class during the observation.
- If possible, leave yourself twenty to thirty minutes after your observation to fill in your form and reflect, in the case that your form is too complex to fill in while observing.

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# Classroom Observation Form Open Ended – (Form A)

Faculty	Date of Observation
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Peer Observer	

This form, adapted from the Community College of Aurora's <u>Mentor Program Handbook</u> and Staffordshire University's "Guidelines for the Observation of Teaching," provides 10 areas for observation. Each area includes prompts regarding what should be observed.

#### 1. Development of learning objectives:

- Are objectives for the class given verbally, written, or not at all?
- Are specific instructional outcomes used?
- Are objectives discussed at the end of class?

#### 2. Selection and use of instructional materials:

- Do films, websites, and other audiovisual materials have a clear purpose?
- Are handouts appropriate in number and subject?
- Since the text may be pre-selected, does instructor give help with reading or using the text, if necessary?

#### 3. Educational climate for learning:

- Are students AND teacher interested and enthusiastic?
- Does the instructor use student names?
- Is humor used appropriately?
- Does instructor not embarrass or belittle students in any way?
- Is the atmosphere of the classroom participative?
- Did the instructor have eye contact with students?

#### 4. Variety of instructional activities:

- Does timing of classroom activities consider attention spans?
- Does instructor involve students in deciding what issues to discuss?

#### 5. **Preparation for class session:**

- Provide examples that show preparation by instructor.
- Do students know what preparation (reading or other assignments) they should have completed prior to class?

#### 6. **Instructional methods:**

- List *instructor* activities.
- Did the opening gain the class's attention? Did it establish rapport?
- Did the opening outline the topic and purpose of the lecture?
- Is the delivery paced to students' needs?
- Does the instructor introduce topic, state goals, present material or activity effectively, summarize, and give assignment or suggest an idea to consider before the next class?
- Could the instructor be seen and heard?
- Were key points emphasized?
- Were explanations clear to students?
- Were examples, metaphors, and analogies appropriate?
- Was the lecture stimulating and thought provoking?

# 7. **Opportunity for student participation:**

- List students' activities.
- Does instructor encourage students to summarize and add to other' summaries?
- Does instructor help quieter students interact with others?

#### 8. **Individualization of instruction:**

- Are the emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of students met?
- Does the instructor prompt awareness of students' prior learning and experiences?
- Does the instructor offer "real world" application?
- Is the instructor available before or after class?
- Does the instructor relate class to course goals, students' personal goals, or societal concerns?

## 9. Responsiveness to student feedback:

- Is the instructor paying attention to cues of boredom and confusion?
- Does the instructor encourage or discourage questions (dissension)?
- Does the instructor provide students opportunity to mention problems/concerns with the class, either verbally or in writing?

#### 10. Learning difficulties:

- Does a student need assistance for a temporary or permanent disability?
- Are one or more students not motivated or unable to follow the class?
- Does the instructor show favoritism?
- Are students able to see visual aids?
- Does one group dominate discussion and hinder others' participation?

# Classroom Observation Form Scale — (Form C)

Faculty	Date of Observation
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Peer Observer	

#### **NOTE:**

This form, adapted from the Community College of Aurora's <u>Mentor Program Handbook</u> and Staffordshire University's "Guidelines for the Observation of Teaching," provides 10 areas for observation. Each area includes prompts regarding what should be observed.

# **Development of learning objectives:**

Are objectives for the class given verbally, written, or not at all?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Are specific instructional outcomes used?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Are objectives discussed at the end of class?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

#### **Selection and use of instructional materials:**

Do films, websites, and other audiovisual materials have a clear purpose?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Are handouts appropriate in number and subject?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Since the text may be pre-selected, does instructor give help with reading or using the text if necessary?

# **Educational climate for learning:**

Are students AND teacher interested and enthusiastic?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

Does the instructor use student names?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Is humor used appropriately?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

Does instructor not embarrass or belittle students in any way?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Is the atmosphere of the classroom participative?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Did the instructor have eye contact with students?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

# Variety of instructional activities:

Does timing of classroom activities consider attention spans?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does instructor involve students in deciding what issues to discuss?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

# Preparation for class session:

Provide examples that show preparation by instructor:

Do students know what preparation (reading or other assignments they should have completed prior to class?

#### **Instructional methods:**

List *instructor* activities:

Did the opening gain the class' attention? Did it establish rapport?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

Did the opening outline the topic and purpose of the lecture?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Is the delivery paced to students' needs?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does the instructor introduce topic, state goals, present material or activity effectively, summarize, and give assignment or suggest an idea to consider before next class?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Could the instructor be seen and heard?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Were key points emphasized?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Were explanations clear to students?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Were examples, metaphors, and analogies appropriate?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Was the lecture stimulating and thought provoking?

# **Opportunity for student participation:**

List students' activities:

Does instructor encourage students to summarize and add to others' summaries?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

Does instructor help quieter students interact with other?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

#### **Individualization of instruction:**

Are the emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of students met?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does the instructor prompt awareness of students' prior learning and experience?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does the instructor offer "real world" applications?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Is the instructor available before or after class?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does the instructor relate class to course goals, students' personal goals, or societal concerns?

# **Responsiveness to student feedback:**

Is the instructor paying attention to cues of boredom, confusion?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does the instructor encourage or discourage questions (dissension)?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

Does the instructor provide students opportunity to mention problems/concerns with the class, either verbally or in writing?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

# **Learning difficulties:**

Does a student need assistance for a temporary or permanent disability?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A

Are one or more students not motivated or unable to follow the class?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does the instructor show favoritism?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A
Are students able to see visual aids?

Not Demonstrated Needs Improvement Satisfactory Outstanding N/A Does one group dominate discussion and hinder others' participation?

# **Classroom Observation Worksheet**

Instructor_	Course	
Date	Observer	

Directions: Below is a list of instructor behaviors that may occur within a given class or course. Please use it as guide to making observations, not as a list of required characteristics. When this worksheet is used for making improvements to instruction, it is recommended that the instructor highlight the areas to be focused on before the observation takes place.

Respond to each statement using the following scale:

Not observed	More emphasis	Accomplished
	recommended	very well
1	2	3

Circle the number at the right that best represents your response. Use the comment space below each section to provide more feedback or suggestions.

<b>Content Organization</b>	Not observed	More emphasis	Accomplished very well
1. Made clear statement of			
the purpose of the lesson	1	2	3
2. Defined relationship or the	his		
lesson to previous lesson	s 1	2	3
3. Presented overview of th	e		
lesson	1	2	3
4. Presented topics with a			
logical sequence	1	2	3
5. Paced lesson appropriate	ly		
6. Summarized major point	S		
of lesson	1	2	3
7. Responded to problems			
raised during lesson	1	2	3
8. Related today's lesson			
to future lessons	1	2	3

Presentation	Not observed	More emphasis	Accomplished very well
9. Projected voice so easily heard	1	2	3
10. Used intonation	1	2	3
to vary emphasis 11. Explained ideas	1	2	3
with clarity 12. Maintained eye	1	2	3
contact with stud 13. Listened to stude		2	3
questions & com 14. Projected nonver		2	3
gestures consister		, <del>-</del>	-
15. Defined unfamili		2	3
concepts, and pri 16. Presented examp clarify points		2	3
17. Related new idea familiar concepts		2	3
18. Restated importa at appropriate tim	nt ideas 1	2	3
19. Varied explanation complex and diff	ons for 1	2	3
material 20. Used humor appropriate to strengthen rete		2	3
interest 21. Limited use of re phrases & hangin		2	3

Instructor-Student Interactions	Not observed	More emphasis	Accomplished very well
22. Encouraged studer questions	nt 1	2	3
23. Encouraged studer discussion	nt 1	2	3
24. Maintained studen attention	t 1	2	3
25. Asked questions to monitor students' progress	o 1	2	3
26. Gave satisfactory answers to studen questions	1 t	2	3
27. Responded to nonverbal cues of confusion, boredo & curiosity	1 m,	2	3
28. Paced lesson to all time for note taking		2	3
29. Encouraged studer to answer difficult questions	nts 1	2	3
30. Asked probing probing questions when student answ was incomplete	1 ver	2	3
31. Restated questions and answers when necessary		2	3
32. Suggested questio of limited interest be handled outside class	to	2	3

Instructional Materials and Environment	Not observed	More emphasis	Accomplished very well
33. Maintained adequate classroom facilities	1	2	3
34. Prepared students for the lesson with appropriate assigned readings	1 e	2	3
35. Supported lesson with useful classroom discussions and exercises	1	2	3
36. Presented helpful audiovisual materials to support lesson organization & maj points		2	3
37. Provided relevant written assignments	1	2	3

Content Knowledge and Relevance	Not observed	More emphasis	Accomplished very well
38. Presented material worth knowing	1	2	3
39. Presented material appropriate to student knowledge & background	1	2	3
40. Cited authorities to support statements	1	2	3
41. Presented material appropriate to stated purp of the course	1 ose	2	3
42. Made distinctions betwee fact & opinion	n 1	2	3
43. Presented divergent view-points when appropriate	- 1	2	3
44. Demonstrated command of subject matter	of 1	2	3

45	. What overall	impressions	do you tł	nink stud	lents left	this les	son with	in terms	of con	ıtent
or	style?									

<sup>46.</sup> What were the instructor's major strengths as demonstrated in this observation?

<sup>47.</sup> What suggestions do you have for improving upon this instructor's skills?

# A Made-to-Order Form for Instructional Observation (Peer Version)

OR	GANIZATION
	Begins class on time in an orderly, organized fashion
	Previews lecture/discussion content
	Clearly states the goal or objective for the period
	Reviews prior class material to prepare students for the content to be covered
	Provides internal summaries and transitions
	Does not digress often from the main topic
	Summarizes and distills main points at the end of class
	Appears well-prepared for class
PRI	ESENTATION
	Incorporates various instructional supports like slides, films, diagrams, etc.
	Uses instructional support effectively
	Responds to changes n student attentiveness
	Uses a variety of spaces in the classroom from which to present material (i.e., does not "hide" behind the podium)
	Blackboard writing is large and legible
	Speech fillers, (for example, "OK, ahm") are not distracting
	Speaks audibly and clearly
	Uses gestures to enhance meaning and not to release nervous tension (repetitive gestures tend to do the latter)
	Communicates a sense of enthusiasm and excitement toward the content
	Use of humor is positive and appropriate
	Presentation style facilitates note-taking
	Speech is neither too formal not too casual
	Establishes and maintains eye contact with students
	Talks to the students, not the board or windows
	Varies the pace to keep students alert
	Selects teaching methods appropriate for the content

RAPI	PORT
	Praises students for contributions that deserve commendation
	Solicits student feedback
	Requires student thought and participation
	Responds constructively to student opinions
	Knows and uses student names
	Does not deprecate student ignorance or misunderstanding
	Responds to students as individuals
	Treats class members equitably
	Listens carefully to student comments and questions
	Tailors the course to help many kinds of students
	Recognizes when students do not understand
	Encourages mutual respect among students
	Credibility and control
	Responds to distractions effectively yet constructively
	Uses authority in classroom to create an environment conducive to learning
	Speaks about course content with confidence and authority
	Is able to admit error and/or insufficient knowledge
	Respects constructive criticism
CON'	TENT
	Includes illustrations
	Selects examples relevant to student experiences and course content
	Integrates text material into class presentations
	Relates current course content to what's gone before and will come after
	Relates current course content to students' general education
	Makes course content relevant with references to "real world" applications
	Presents views other than own when appropriate
	Seeks to apply theory to problem-solving
	Explicitly states relationships among various topics and facts/theory
	Explains difficult terms, concepts, or problems in more than one way
	Presents background of ideas and concepts
	Presents pertinent facts and concepts from related fields
	Presents up-to-date developments in the field
	Relates assignments to course content
	Clearly organizes assignments
	Carefully explains assignments

INTI	ERACTION
	Encourages student questions, involvement, and debate
	Answers student questions clearly and directly
	Uses rhetorical questions to gain student attention
	Gives students enough time to respond to questions
	Refrains from answering own questions
	Responds to wrong answers constructively
	Allows ample time for questions
	Encourages students to respond to each other's questions
	Encourages students to answer difficult questions be providing cues and encouragement
	Allows relevant student discussion to proceed uninterrupted
	Presents challenging questions to stimulate discussion
	Respects diverse points of view
۸CT	IVE LEARNING (LABS, PE ACTIVITIES, ETC.)
	Clearly explains directions or procedures
	Clearly explains the goal of the activity
	Has readily available materials and equipment necessary to complete the activity
<u> </u>	Allows opportunity for individual expression
	Provides practice time
	Gives prompt attention to individual problems
	Provides individuals constructive verbal feedback
	Careful safety supervision is obvious
	Allows sufficient time for completion
	Provides enough demonstrations
	Demonstrations are clearly visible to all students
	If the discovery method is employed, schedules time for discussion of results
	Required skills are not beyond reasonable expectations for the course and/or students
	Provides opportunities for dialogue about the activity with peers and/or the instructor
	Allocates sufficient clean-up time within the class session

# **CLASSROOM PEER OBSERVATION**

Instructor:		Date:		<del></del>			
Course/Institution:		Observer:					
<u>Directions:</u> Below is a list of effective teaching behaviors that may occur during a class. This form is to be used as a guide, not a list of teaching requirements. We recommend that the instructor and observer use this list prior to the observation as a basis to discuss/highlight selected areas on which to focus.  * Bold indicates research-based effective teacher characteristics.							
ORGANIZATION	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well 3	Comments			
□ Arrives early to class (may chat with learners before class): □ Begins class on time in an organized manner: □ Arranges materials/information before class: □ Shares session agenda/outline with class: □ Clearly states session objective and significance of objective/activities (& periodically overall course objective) with class: □ Reviews prior class material to prepare class for □ Clearly demonstrates transition from one topic/activity to the next: □ Periodically summarizes material addressed during class session: □ Adapts smoothly to back-up plan when necessary (uses board etc., if overhead malfunctions, addresses misunderstandings, probides further application activities, if needed): □ Ends class on time: □ Reminds students of assignments, tests, projects etc.: □ Summarizes main points at the end of class: □ Appears well-prepared for class (has materials/equipment available and organized): □ Organizes lecture/strategies so							
students can easily take notes:			1				

☐ Frequently checks student

understanding:

CLARITY	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well 3	Comments
☐ Provides examples of each				
concept:				
☐ Uses concrete examples to explain:				
☐ Concretely defines/explains difficult or unfamiliar terms (or				
directions or procedures etc.):				
☐ Clearly explains relationships				
among topics/facts/theories, etc.:				
☐ Repeats challenging/unfamiliar info:				
☐ Remains focused when answering				
questions (sticks to main topic):  Clearly and legibly writes on				
board/OH:				
☐ Relates usefulness of content to				
real world:  Repeats questions from student(s)				
so all hear:				
☐ Describes				
terms/concepts/theories etc. in				
more than one way:				
☐ Emphasizes important points by pausing, raising voice, or speaking				
slowly, etc.  Uses visuals with explanations:				
□ Points out practical use of content:				
☐ Answers questions completely:				
☐ Shares tips to learning difficult info:				
☐ Shares key terms visually (board, OH, handout):				
☐ Explains info in easy-to-				
understand terms/language:				
<ul><li>□ Provides sample test questions:</li><li>□ Shares tips with students</li></ul>				
regarding taking exams, mastering content, etc.:				
☐ Clearly explains what is expected				
on tests and assignments:				

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ENTHUSIASM	Observed 1	Emphasis 2	Very Well	Comments
<ul> <li>□ Speaks in expressive manner:</li> <li>□ Smiles while teaching:</li> <li>□ Shows respectful facial expressions:</li> <li>□ Shows appropriate sense of humor:</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>□ Moves around room white speaking (does not stay behind podium):</li> <li>□ Gestures with arms, hands, head or body:</li> <li>□ Appears relaxed with class:</li> <li>□ Does not read continually from notes</li> <li>□ Answers questions completely:</li> <li>□ Distracting mannerisms/habits (specify):</li> </ul>				
CONTENT	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well 3	Comments
□ Uses several visuals during class: □ Uses appropriate examples: □ Relates content to previous knowledge: □ Relates information to future, practical (real world) application: □ Shares/encourages diverse/more than one point(s) of view: □ Shares thought-provoking info:				

INTERACTION	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well 3	Comments
□ Praises student answers/uses probing questions to build on answers: □ Uses a variety of strategies in class: □ Encourages student participation: □ Asks questions to entire class: □ Answers questions clearly and directly: □ Refrains from answering own questions: □ Encourages students to answer each other's questions: □ Encourages student to answer				
difficult questions by providing cues:  Constuctively admits error or insufficient knowledge (I.e., suggests options to finding correct info): Respects/encourages different points of vies: Integrates students' ideas into class: Guides student when s/he errs: Provides ample demostrations: Provides frequent feedback (corrective feedback when needed): Shows respect/sensitivity to diverse learners: Promotes active learning/student participation: Encourages/facilitates relevant student-led discussion: Asks questions of various levels (i.e., Bloom's Taxonomy):				

PACING	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well 3	Comments
☐ Students were not rushed: ☐ Asked/checked understanding before moving to next topic: ☐ Covers an appropriate (not too little or too much) amount of material during class: ☐ Does not engage unrelated issues/conent during class (does not go off on tangents): ☐ Students have enough time to finish tasks:				
SPEAKING	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well	Comments
□ Speaks in an acceptable tone/volume: □ Speaks clearly (does not stutter, slur, mumble words, or say "uh"/um"): □ Speaks at an appropriate pace (not too fast or slow): □ Speaks with expressive manner (not monotone): □ Uses appropriate (non-distracting) gestures: □ Maintains eye contact with students (i.e., does not talk to board, windows/walls): □ Speaks in respectful, easy-to-understand language: □ Speaks slowly and clearly when covering difficult terms/ideas/content:				

RAPPORT	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well 3	Comments
□ Encourages student feedback: □ Encourages student thought and participation: □ Responds constructively to student opinions/contributions: □ Encourages (and may present) diverse points of view: □ Warm classroom climate (students speak freely, relates to students as people, appropriate humor): □ Responds to student misunderstanding or confusion respectfully: □ Treats students/class equitably: □ Listens effectively/closely to student comments/concerns/questions: □ Tries to reach many kinds of students when teaching: □ Encourages mutual respect, honesty, and integrity among class members: □ Responds to distractions effectively: □ Encourages constructive criticism: □ Admits errors with honesty/integrity: □ Provides constructive feedback: □ Responds to students by name (in classes of 30 or less): □ Informally talks with students before and/or after class: □ Accessible to students outside of class (i.e., office hours):				

TEACHING STRATEGIES	Not Observed 1	More Emphasis 2	Shown Very Well 3	Comments
☐ Encourages student participation:				
☐ Explains difficult content in more				
than one way:				
☐ Uses a variety of activities in				
class:				
☐ Provides demonstration/examples				
of given content, information, issues				
or theories:				
☐ Uses various media in class:				
☐ Holds attention and respect of students:				
☐ Adapts to any changes in student				
attention (i.e., increases student				
participation, changes strategy, activity, changes pacing, etc.):				
☐ Demonstrates sincere				
interest/excitement about the				
course content/session:				
□ Demonstrates effective teaching				
strategy for given content:				
□ Demonstrates execllent content				
competence:				
☐ Provides opportunities for				
students to apply content (i.e., problems, case study, generate				
examples, etc.):				
☐ Connects new				
ideas/theories/content etc. to				
familiar ideas/theories/content:				
☐ Uses text content in class session:				
☐ Connects content to previous and				
upcoming class session:   Shares current developments in				
the field:				
☐ Connects content to assigmments:				
☐ Asks questions to gain attention:				
☐ Uses "wait-time" when asking questions to class:				
☐ Teaches content that is not too				
difficult (beyond course description)				
or too easy:				
☐ Students are continually engaged (listening, taking notes, or on-task				
discussion, activity, etc.):				
☐ Decreases distractions				
constructively:				