

## Chemistry Teaching Assistantship CETL 8000; Fall 2011

### **Instructors**

Dr. Cianán Russell, [cianan.russell@chemistry.gatech.edu](mailto:cianan.russell@chemistry.gatech.edu)  
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### **Meeting Times and Locations**

Thursdays 12:00pm-1:30pm (CHEM 1310 TAs)  
Thursdays 1:30pm-3:00pm (CHEM 1211K TAs)

Clough Commons 572  
Clough Commons 572

### **Course Objectives**

This course is an introduction for graduate students to teaching undergraduate chemistry laboratories and recitations. The course emphasizes engaging students in active learning, facilitation, teaching effectiveness, and classroom management. By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Effectively manage your classroom or lab by:
  - Appropriately responding to conflict
  - Providing timely and constructive feedback to students
  - Fostering an environment conducive to learning
- Engage your students in and facilitate active learning
- Encourage and manage effective group work by students
- Discuss and implement sound pedagogical practices
- Outline your basic teaching philosophy

### **Course Content**

1. *Developing teaching skills*: Develop confidence and effectiveness in teaching style; explore alternate methods to reach diverse audiences.
2. *Mastery of course content*: Active participation in class discussions and lab demonstrations, preparation for lab and recitation.
3. *Teaching philosophy*: Exploration based on the text *What the Best College Teachers Do*.

### **Grading**

The final grade in this course is based on successful advancement of teaching skills. Specific course requirements include:

Attendance and participation in CETL 8000; daily work	45%
Pre-lab lecture and recitation evaluation	25%
Teaching philosophy writing assignment	30%

This course is graded as Pass/Fail. A grade of 75% in the course is required to Pass.

### **Evaluation**

**Attendance and participation**: Attendance and participation are both critical to your development as a TA. Anticipated absences from CETL 8000 for official university activities should be communicated with the instructors at least one week in advance. Unanticipated absences should be discussed as soon as possible. A total of 45 points are possible for attendance and participation.

*Attendance and participation in CETL 8000 meeting will be evaluated as follows:*

Attendance	1 point
Attendance and active participation; completion of daily work	3 points

*Attendance* will be defined as arrival within 5 minutes of class start time and staying through the completion of class.

*Attendance and active participation* is defined to include the above for attendance as well as completion of daily work and participation in classroom discussions. *Daily work* consists of bringing to class each week five (5) discussion points from the reading or teaching; a minimum of two (2) of the discussion points must come from the assigned reading for the week.

**Teaching Evaluation:** You will be evaluated on both a pre-lab lecture and part of a recitation by one of the course instructors. Each evaluation is worth a maximum of 12.5% of your grade. Evaluations will not be scheduled in advance, so you should be prepared to be evaluated at any time.

**Teaching Philosophy:** Your final assignment for the semester will be to prepare a written statement of your teaching philosophy. This assignment will be due on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class. A grading rubric will be distributed during the semester.

### **ADAPTS**

Student learning disabilities documented through this department will be honored as detailed to the instructor. Please inform the instructor and lab coordinator ***within the first week of the course or as soon as possible.***

### **Honor Code**

All students are expected to comply with the honor code regulations set forth by this institution. All violations of the honor code will be reported to the office of student affairs. Violations of the honor code can result in a zero on the particular assignment, a letter grade reduction, and can in some instances, result in expulsion from the institution. See <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/> for details.

### **Reading Schedule**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
August 25	<i>None</i>
September 1	Chapter 1, <i>How Learning Works</i> (handout)
September 8	Chapter 13, <i>The Chemistry Classroom</i> (handout)
September 15	Chapter 15, <i>The Chemistry Classroom</i> (handout)
September 22	Chapter 3, <i>How Learning Works</i> (handout)
September 29	Chapter 1, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book)
October 6	Chapter 2, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book)
October 13	Chapter 3, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book)
October 20	Chapter 4, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book)
October 27	Chapter 5, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book)
November 3	UMN Teaching Philosophy Tutorial (online) <a href="http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/index.html">http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/index.html</a>
November 10	Chapter 6, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book)
November 17	Chapter 7, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book) <b>Teaching philosophy assignment due</b>
November 24	<i>No class; Holiday</i>
December 1	Epilogue, <i>What the Best College Teachers Do</i> (book)
December 8	Chapter 5, <i>How Learning Works</i> (handout)