

## Reflective Teaching Communities Syllabus

**Semester:** Spring 2024

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### Program Description

The Reflective Teaching Communities (RTC) program is a semester-long professional development opportunity designed to enhance faculty members' teaching effectiveness and vitality through collaborative reflection and peer feedback. Participants will engage in structured discussions and activities centered on the Teaching Effectiveness and Development Framework developed by the CTA. The RTC program is designed to foster a collegial and supportive environment where faculty can openly share teaching challenges, successes, and aspirations. Central to the program is the commitment to enhancing student learning experiences in impactful and sustainable ways, guided by the principle that best teaching practices should also support faculty's long-term vitality.

### Program Goals

- **Effective Teaching Practices:** Enhance faculty knowledge and application of teaching practices that align with our institutional teaching priorities and positively impact student learning and development.
- **Collaboration:** Cultivate a collaborative and supportive environment that encourages faculty to engage in critical and reflective dialogue, incorporating feedback to challenge, support, and enrich each other's teaching practices.
- **Reflective Teaching:** Strengthen reflective teaching capabilities, enabling faculty to refine their teaching practices and adapt effectively to evolving student needs.
- **Faculty Vitality:** Encourage implementing sustainable teaching practices that support and enhance faculty well-being and enthusiasm.

### Program Outcomes

By the end of the RTC program, participants will be able to:

1. apply reflective practices to critically analyze and enhance their teaching effectiveness.
2. use teaching effectiveness feedback tools, including teaching observation protocols, mid-semester feedback forms, self-assessment and goal-setting, and structured student feedback analysis to enhance teaching effectiveness, communicate progress, and develop growth plans.
3. apply collaborative reflection strategies to offer constructive feedback in peer-review processes and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

4. use the Teaching Effectiveness and Development Framework domains to articulate their teaching effectiveness.
5. implement sustainable teaching practices that promote their teaching vitality and well-being.

## Program Expectations

1. **Participation:** Actively participate in all scheduled RTC meetings. The program includes a total of eight meetings from January to May.
  - **Pre-semester Meeting:** Attend the initial meeting on January 9th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
  - **Regular Meetings:** Participate in six one-hour meetings spread throughout the semester. Participants are grouped based on indicated availability.
  - **Post-semester Meeting:** Attend the concluding session on either May 16th or 17th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
2. **Peer Teaching Observation:** Engage in at least one Peer Teaching Observation, which involves allowing a colleague to observe your class and observing another colleague's class in return. (Depending on schedule)
3. **Feedback on Tools:** provide feedback to refine the Teaching Effectiveness Feedback Tools.

## Program Schedule

Session Topic(s)		Meeting Date
1	<b>Introduction to Reflective Teaching Communities</b> <b>Domain Focus: Learning Experience Design</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syllabus Design</li> <li>Integrated Course Design</li> </ul>	January 9 <sup>th</sup>  9:00-12:00pm via Zoom All Groups Meet on this Day
2	<b>Domain Focus: Learning Experience Design</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transparent &amp; equitable assessment</li> <li>Significant Learning Outcomes</li> <li>Learner-centered instruction</li> </ul>	Week of January 29 <sup>th</sup>

3	<b>Domain Focus: Mission-Aligned Learning Culture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting cura personalis</li> <li>Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>Mission Dispositions</li> </ul>	Week of February 12 <sup>th</sup>
4	<b>Domain Focus: Reflective Teaching for Continuous Improvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback Tools: Mid-semester feedback Strategies</li> <li>Teaching Observation Protocols</li> </ul>	Week of Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>
5	<b>Domain Focus: Reflective Teaching for Continuous Improvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structured Student Feedback Analysis Forms (using Mid-semester Feedback)</li> </ul>	Week of March 18 <sup>th</sup>
6	<b>Domain Focus: Scholarly Teaching Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science of Learning</li> <li>Evidence-Based Teaching Practices</li> </ul>	Week of April 8 <sup>th</sup>
7	<b>Domain Focus: All</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-Assessment</li> </ul>	Week of April 22 <sup>nd</sup>

8	<b>Domain Focus: Reflective Teaching for Continuous Improvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Learning Question</li> <li>• Structured Student Feedback Analysis Forms</li> <li>• Program Evaluation</li> </ul>	May 16 <sup>th</sup> or May 17 <sup>th</sup> Groups can select a day—2-hour time slot
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## What to Expect

Each regular meeting during the semester will be a 60-minute session facilitated using a semi-structured plan. Facilitators will guide the sessions with a standardized approach, ensuring consistency across all groups while allowing flexibility to meet each group's unique needs. The sessions promote individual and collaborative reflection on teaching practices, enhancing student learning and ensuring sustainability.

## Typical Session Agenda

Time Frame	Activity
5 minutes	Welcome and Greetings: Get situated
5 minutes	Personal Reflection on the Topic: Engage in reflection using questions on the previous session's topic.
10-15 minutes	Collaborative Reflection: Group discussion based on reflection questions and the topic, facilitated with semi-structured questions.
20-25 minutes	Content—Focus on the Topic: Present the main topic of the session, with a focus on one of the domains of the Teaching Effectiveness & Development Framework.
5-10 minutes	Collaborative Reflection: Discuss future applications and intentions and conclude the session.
5-10 minutes	Closure and next steps