The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Mission Statement

The mission of the Texas Wesleyan University’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) is to promote a student-centered university by providing resources and professional growth opportunities to faculty on enhancing instructional practice, integrating technology and promoting essential student skills.

To facilitate these goals, CETL provides services through:
- Workshops
- Individual Consultations
- Teaching & Learning Resources
- Learning Management Systems Training
- Instructional Technology, and
- Teaching Observations

Welcome to our newest online resource, the CETL Course Catalog, which curates current workshops and events provided by the CETL. To simplify the process of connecting workshops to faculty needs and interests, the arrangement of our listings is in topical categories. However, if you have further suggestions or questions concerning provided workshops, please contact the CETL or complete the workshop request form on our website. The CETL staff is committed to providing quality programming to support the university’s goal of a student-centered university with high-quality academic distinction.
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5 Class Activities to Promote Inquiry
Inquiry engages students with their own thinking processes. During this workshop, we will explore classroom strategies that help students clarify their thoughts to invoke higher levels of thinking.

Aligning Assessments to Learning Outcomes
The connection between outcomes and assessments is something that students should be able to easily see. We will explore design strategies for assessments that help provide evidence of learning to both faculty and students.

Backchannel Tools: Twitter & Today’s Meet
Remember passing out little notes to your classmates in school? Backchannels work in a similar way, but digitally. Twitter allows for backchannels to be public and Today’ Meet keep them private. In this session learn about both and see which option could be best used in your classroom.

Blackboard Collaborate
Learn to use this is a simple, convenient, and reliable online collaborative learning solution. This solution delivers a level of engagement that makes learners feel like they’re together in the same room via collaboration and conference tool.

Blackboard Three R’s - Rewards, Retention, & Rubrics
This session highlights ways to incorporate Blackboard’ achievement, retention center and rubrics features increase communication with students, engage students with course content and keep them on track for success.

Collaborating Over the Cloud
In this session you will learn how to use Office 365 for file storage, content creation, and collaboration.

Communicating with Students Using Blackboard
Learn how to share information with your students without opening Outlook! In this workshop, you’ll learn how to manage Blackboard announcements, as well as how to use Remind, an app that enables you to send text messages to a class of students without revealing your cell number.
Concept Mapping – Make learning visible
Learn how to use concept mapping to transform abstract knowledge and understanding into concrete visual representations that can be used for teaching or assessing learning.

Course Design Institute
The Course Design Institute brings a cohort of up to 12 faculty together for four days to begin designing or transforming a learning-centered course that embodies teaching excellence. Faculty will focus on course and syllabus design that reflects the alignment of student outcomes, performance tasks, and learning activities. During the Institute, faculty will participate in workshops, peer feedback groups, and independent activities as they answer the following questions:

- What short- and long-term goals drive my decisions about the content I include in the course?
- What differentiates students who take my class from those who don’t?
- What are my students really learning? Do the assessments align with both the course goals and unit outcomes?
- How do I support student learning?
- How do my students learn?

Participants will leave with approximately 50% of a completed syllabus that includes course- and unit-level outcomes, instructions and a rubric for at least one major assessment, and other elements as outlined in the Syllabus Rubric created by the University of Virginia’s Teaching Resource Center.

Course Design Mini-series
In this workshop, you will learn about the backward design process and contrast it with other methods of course design. The backward design process takes instructors through a three-stage process (develop learning objectives, plan assessments, and develop classroom activities and course content). Applying backward design to the development of instructional units is an evidence-based practice that results in the development of more focused course curriculum and increased levels of student achievement. This series of workshops will provide you with a solid foundation for planning units in which objectives, assessments, course content, and activities are aligned to increase student achievement. Attend one or all of the workshops in the Course Design series this fall (additional workshops in the series will be offered twice each month).

Create Smart Views to Filter Grade Center Columns
Scrolling through grade columns in BlackBoard Grade Center can be tedious. In this 30-minute session, you will learn how to create filters, called Smart Views, so you can limit the number of visible columns with a single click.
Creating a Podcast Using Audacity
Podcasting offers the opportunity for lecturers to easily broadcast engaging audio content, which students can then listen to at any time and wherever they are. Come learn to create, edit and save your podcast using this free tool.

Creative Assessment for Continuous Learning
The ultimate goal of teaching is understanding. During this workshop, we’ll explore simple assessment strategies you can use every day to measure understanding and performance goals.

Dare to Share - Collaborative Tools
For this workshop we will explore how to incorporate technology resources that assist you in facilitating active learning and guided inquiry methods.

Design Effective Collaborative Assignments
Would you like to try collaborative assignments or make existing assignments more successful? Attend this workshop to learn how to conceptualize team assignments that require interdependence among team members and that take into account individual effort. Workshop participants will use a rubric to determine if collaborative assignments require interdependence among team members and review options for assessing individual contributions to the final product.

Developing Critical Thinking Skills
In this workshop you will learn which classroom activities promote active learning...and which don't, how to inforce critical thinking through exams and assignments, how to use rubrics to reveal learning, how to fill your classes with experiences including case studies, role play, brainstorming and journals, and how to help students understand the meaning and importance of context.

Engagement Via Mobile App: Socrative
Discuss ways to make student’s use of smartphones during class productive and engaging. During this workshop, you’ll learn about Socrative, an app that allows you to poll students. You’ll also learn how to craft in-class assignments that put students’ search skills to good use.

Fall Kickoff
Each Fall the CETL sponsors this event to get instructors ready for the upcoming year. If you l topic for this event please let us know.
F.O.O.T.-Fundamentals of Online Learning
Fundamentals of Online Teaching is a six-week certification course offered to Texas Wesleyan faculty who plan to teach an online or hybrid course within the next year. The certification course introduces faculty to the unique demands of online and hybrid course facilitation and introduces the backward design process.

FOOT was developed in recognition of the fact that Texas Wesleyan is committed to upholding the Smaller. Smarter. philosophy in all of its courses. The University recognizes that online and hybrid courses present unique teaching contexts and requires certification to ensure that faculty have a shared understanding of evidence-based practices in the virtual classroom.

Most of the course takes place online, in Blackboard. Participants will also attend two face-to-face sessions in the CETL Lab.

Get Up and Get Active: Active Learning Techniques
Planning a five hour class session can be a daunting task. To maximize effectiveness instructors need to be able to vary instructional methods to keep their students engaged. This workshop will showcase twelve different active learning instructional techniques instructors can use to keep their class sessions interactive. Tips for implementation, resources to use in planning, and assessment and evaluation considerations will be discussed.

Google Search
Google Custom Search enables you to create a search engine for your website, your blog, or a collection of websites. Bring a topic of your choice to create a custom search for one of your current assignments.

How to get the most out of Blackboard Grade Center
Attend this workshop to set up a weighted total in your Grade Center (no manual calculations needed!) and learn how to create filters, called Smart Views, so you can limit the number of visible columns with a single click.

Image Manipulation & PowerPoint Pizzazz
Make a big impact on students through sophisticated use of images and PowerPoints in the classroom and on Blackboard. During this workshop, you will learn to use basic features of a free tool called Pixlr to optimize images for the web, which prevents the images from loading slowly. Then, you will use your optimized images in a PowerPoint presentation that is interactive and engaging. You’ll learn how to integrate QR codes, as well as how to add narration, polling questions, and more to slides.
*Can make basic image manipulation in Pixlr a video tutorial, as well.
Including Introverts in Class Discussion
In this Magna focused workshop you will be able to identify the meaning of “introversion” and “extroversion,” recognize how temperament can affect a student’s participation in a classroom, design alternative methods to help introverted students contribute to classroom learning, and employ specific techniques to encourage introverted students to participate in classroom discussions.

Individual Course Design and Pedagogy Consultations
Work individually with the CETL’s instructional designer to review and revise teaching strategies, assignment design, and course design. If you are designing a new course, we recommend you contact the CETL 3-6 months prior to the start of the course.

Introduction to TurnItIn Feedback Studio
TurnItIn is a powerful tool that allows faculty to do more than simply check student work for plagiarism. Instructors can also use the tool to grade student work submitted to Blackboard. Attend this workshop to learn how to do the following create a TurnItIn assignment in Blackboard, view and interpret originality reports and access basic grading tools.

Learner-Centered Technology: Aligning Tools with Learning Goals
In this Magna focused workshop you will be presented with a roadmap for matching technological tools to course learning outcomes and be able to design course assignments that more effectively incorporate technology. Also, you will be able to know how technology can improve learner-centered instruction in each of the four major course formats: face-to-face, web-assisted, blended, and online learning.

Lib Guide
West Library has a new tool that can be useful for both faculty and students. It is called LibGuides, which can be used to create guides of Library resources for a specific subject or even a specific course. Guides can also be created to teach students about citation styles, how to use a database, how to do research and more.

Online Office Hours
Meet us ONLINE to learn how to host audio-only and screen-sharing calls using Blackboard Collaborate. You can use the tool to host online office hours and virtual meetings (as can student groups).
Online Tests, Quizzes & Surveys through Blackboard
We’ll work on ways to create quizzes and tests to measure student knowledge, gauge progress, gather information and then provide feedback to students as to their performance.

Planning a Learner Centered Classroom
Shifting the role of instructors as givers of information to facilitators of student learning is a fundamental concept of learner-centered teaching. During this workshop you’ll walk away with several tips on how to incorporate learner centered teaching strategies in your course.

PowerPointless- Presentations (Using Microsoft Sway)
Microsoft Sway is a cloud-based app available through Office 365. Use this app instead of free tools like Prezi to go “PowerPoint-less.” Sway allows creators to make their presentations private. The resulting product is eye-catching and dynamic (and creators can choose not to share presentations with the public). During this workshop, you’ll also learn about the cognitive neuroscience behind best practices for presenting to learners.

Professional Networking with LinkedIn & Academia.edu
Want to connect, but not with Twitter nor Facebook then try LinkedIn or Academia.edu. There you can connect with other professionals in a more professional and professionally productive way.

Promoting Critical Thinking Through Gamification
Games have long been designed with engagement and learning in mind. Come discuss what elements from game design we can bring into our classrooms to promote critical thinking and student learning.

Putting the “A” in “Team”: Helping Students
Students and faculty are often resistant to group projects, yet collaboration is a key skill. Like anything else, however, it needs to be learned and practiced. This session gives tips and tools for encouraging and managing student collaboration.

QR Codes in the Classroom
Quick response (QR) codes are easy to create and have many uses in the classroom. With the posting of a QR code, you can lead students to information by just using their computer’s or mobile device’s camera.
**Qualtrics Advanced**
This course will teach you some of the features that are available to enhance your data collection. These tools were not available in PsychData! You will find these features easy and useful.

**Qualtrics Introduction**
Are you interested in creating powerful, dynamic surveys? This course will teach you the new survey tool available to TXWU Faculty. The training will cover creating simple surveys, deploying the survey, looking at data, and reports.

**Ready to Flip it? YouTube it!**
You have learned about flipping classrooms, but don't know where to start? Come to this session and learn how to create and share videos on YouTube to add to a flipped lesson.

**Remind**
Remind is a private mobile messaging platform that enables teachers, and students to communicate with each other. Come learn how to use this handy tool.

**Screencasting & Video Best Practices**
During this workshop, you will learn how to record yourself via webcam and how to record a screencast through hands-on practice. You will also learn best practices to guide your use of videos in courses. In addition, you will learn how to stream videos within a Blackboard course site (Hint: Do not upload video files to Blackboard!).

**Setting Up Your Grade Center**
This workshop provides a comprehensive look at Blackboard's Grade Center. You’ll learn how to manage the columns, calculate grades and verify that the information is correctly being reported to students.

**Soft Chalk – E-Learning and Content Authoring Tool**
Learning to create your own digital lessons by combining your own materials with interactive learning content, which enhances teaching and improves the learning experience for students. You can also add interactivity and assess student performance using various quizzes and activities that are easy to integrated into your Blackboard gradebook.
Spicing up Your Assessments with Blackboard
Would you love to use your textbook assessment resources with Blackboard, create assessments in Blackboard, upload previous assessments to Blackboard? Or would you just like to understand how the assessment works in Blackboard? This workshop is for you!

Summer Institute
Each summer the CETL holds an Institute featuring best practices in teaching a learning. This is a day long institute with presenters demonstrating best practices in higher education teaching practices.

Take Charge of YOUR Training with Atomic Learning
Texas Wesleyan subscribes to a wonderful service called Atomic Learning that makes available thousands of instructional videos on all kinds of software and tools. Come to this session to learn how to take charge of your own professional development with Atomic Learning.

Transparent Assignment Design
Research conducted as part of the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) in Higher Ed project has demonstrated that faculty can increase student performance, close the achievement gap between traditional and underserved student populations, and increase retention through a simple intervention. Attend this workshop to learn how to get these gains in your classes by re-writing the directions for two problem-based assignments in the first half of the semester to explain the how and the why of learning. You will also learn about opportunities to participate in research sponsored by TILT Higher Ed.

Tune-ups
This workshop is offered at the beginning of each semester. Use this time to ensure that your semester gets off to a great start and runs like a well-oiled machine. During a 30-minute tune-ups you will meet with a CETL staff member to review one of the following:

- Blackboard courses
- Syllabi
- Turnitin assignments
- Smartboard functionality
- Topic of your choosing

Using Blackboard to Support Teaching and Learning
Workshop participants will get an overview of Blackboard, the University’s learning management system. Participants will complete hands-on exercises as they learn how to use Blackboard to communicate with students, provide course content and evaluate and assess learning.
Using Discussion Boards in Blackboard
This workshop will reacquaint you with strategies for creating and structuring discussion based activities. We will share ideas on ways to craft better questions and guide the discussion process.

Using Rubrics: Expedite Grading and Provide Descriptive Feedback
Rubrics are essential teaching tools because they:
- Are student-centered
- Make assessment more equitable
- Reduce grading time
- Guide instructor feedback

You will leave this one-hour workshop with links to helpful resources and sample rubrics, as well as a partially-completed rubric for one of your assignments.

Use Social Media #NOW in your Cl@ssroom
Learn how to use social media tools like Facebook and Twitter in your classes for research and collaboration.

Using Your Smartboard For More Than A projector
SMART Notebook is an interactive software that allows educators to create high-impact lessons that bring learning to life. With a rich set of design and delivery features and a multitude of digital resources, SMART Notebook software connects you to a full ecosystem of content, tools and support that compliments the use of your SMART Board.

Using Your Smartboard Active Learning
SMART Notebook and its interactive features including polling, brainstorming and much more allow you to make collaboration a snap in your classroom.

Videos - Interactive Assignments
The power to create and share video is a boon for students in virtual classrooms, but watching video remains an inherently passive activity. Join us in the CETL Lab to learn how to use EdPuzzle to create interactive video. You will learn how to add polls and other questions to videos you want to share with students.
**Virtual Collaborative Assignments**
During this project-based workshop, you will work in a team of 3-4 to collaborate on a presentation using the Office 365 version of PowerPoint. Individual team members will conduct research and combine their new knowledge in a single presentation. After reviewing one another’s contributions and finalizing the presentation, team members will complete a self- and peer-assessment.

Participants will leave the workshop having experienced a collaborative activity structure that can be used at any level in a course on any subject, as well as resources for implementing the activity.

**Voice Thread**
VoiceThread is a learning tool for enhancing student engagement and online presence. With this tool instructors and/or students can create, share, and comment on images, Microsoft PowerPoint presentations, videos, audio files, documents, and PDFs.

**What the What?: Helping Students Ask Better Questions**
Students don't read, don't prepare for class, and don't ask questions when you prompt them. Even when they do, their questions aren't that good. Fix it! Learn tips to help students engage with the material and ask better questions in and out of class.

**Wiki's in the Classroom**
Don't let Wikipedia's reputation as an unreliable resource fool you--wikis are a fabulous collaboration tool that allow users to create content pages, view, edit, and comment on others’ work. Wikis also allow instructors to see who has made changes to the content and when. During this workshop, we will review a variety of wiki projects you can use in your class, including student-created study guides, portfolio development, collaborative research, and more.
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